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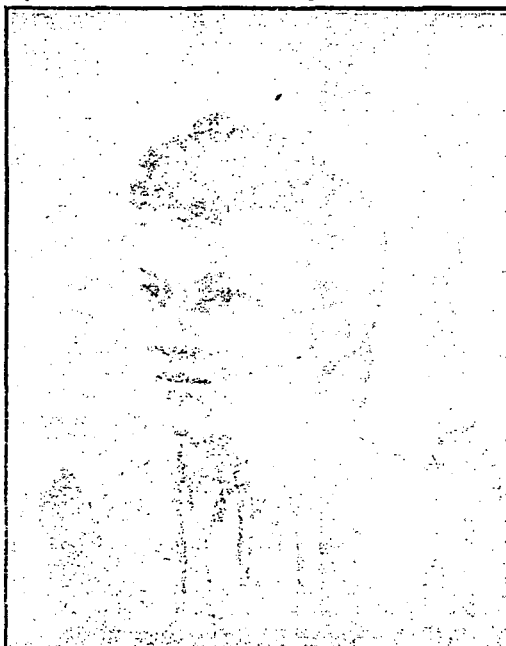
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ST. LOUIS DELEGATION TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

MODERN CONSTRUCTION AND
MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRIC
LINES.*

BY WILLIAM BROPHY.

No one can deny that the best form of electric line construction is the underground system for the transmission of any form of electrical energy, except possibly the long distance telephone system, for here induction and retardation as yet offers an unsurmountable obstacle to the successful transmission of articulate speech over long distance lines when any considerable portion thereof is placed underground.

Electric lighting circuits in which is maintained a difference of potential of from one to ten thousand

volts can be operated much better than when suspended in the air. The insulation of the underground cables and wires can be maintained at from one to six thousand megohms per mile, a figure than cannot be approached by any overhead line except where made up in the form of cables equally well insulated and protected by an outer covering of lead or some other equally durable material.

In the congested district of cities all electric wires should be placed underground, as there is no excuse now for maintaining them overhead on poles in the streets, an obstruction to travel and a great hindrance to the fire department in the performance of its duties.

Where an underground system is established it should be one pure and simple, not a mongrel one, where the mains and feeders are in the electrical subways, and the house services distributed over the face and on the roofs of buildings or on unsightly distribution poles, in order to reach the various customers. There are several objections to this method of construction, one of the principal ones being that it tends to reduce the absolute insulation resistance of the circuit. While the insulation of the underground wires and cables is all that can be desired, that of these portions of the circuits connected thereto that are overhead, is insulated in name only, and neutralizes the good effects of the

*Abstract of a paper read before the Mayors' Convention, Columbus, O., Oct. 1, 1897.

underground portions of the circuits. All services from underground systems should be continued underground until the interior of the building is reached.

Connections from underground circuits to points of consumption are made in various ways. In some cases subsidiary ducts are laid above the main ducts, in which are placed service wires, and from these connections are readily made to the buildings.

In other cases service connections are made in the manholes and from there run to the area under the sidewalk, and from these points the consumers are reached. In many cities the mongrel system before mentioned is used, in which case wires are led from underground conductors up the face of the buildings to the roofs, there to straggle from one point to another, providing they do not cross the streets. This method should not be tolerated anywhere. It has been the custom up to the present time to place transformers on the outer walls or roofs of buildings leading the primary wires from the underground circuits to them. A much better plan would be to place them in the manholes or in pits specially prepared for them; this would not expose the high potential primary wires to the accidental touch of firemen and others.

The author then described the two systems of underground electrical service in use, viz., the drawing in and the solid system. For fire and police telegraph circuits the solid system is far superior to any circuit of uninsulated iron wire, and not near as expensive as a drawing in system.

Unfortunately, underground systems as yet are the exception rather than the rule, and most of you for some time to come must deal with the question of overhead lines. In the majority of towns and cities these lines are running without any system or well defined plan, the aim seeming to be to reach the desired point in the shortest, easiest, cheapest, and oftentimes flimsiest manner possible.

Undoubtedly the best system of overhead lines are those supported on tall, shapely poles; on these should be fastened suitable cross-arms, with pins for support of petticoat insulators, the lines being fastened to these with tie wires. High and low potential wires should never be placed on the same pole fixture or cross-arm. The pole brackets should not be fastened to the side of a pole between the cross-arms for the support of an extra wire; hard rubber hooks should not be screwed into the underside of a cross-arm for the support of another wire, when the arm is already carrying its full quota.

The owners of electric light and power lines make a pretense of using an insulating covering on them, but it is only a pretense; the so-called insulated wire used for overhead circuits of this character is but a flimsy, gauzy sham, so far as insulation is concerned. The insulation resistance of a high potential overhead line should not be less than 15 to 20 megohms per mile, yet I have known them to drop to less than one-half a megohm per mile after a soaking rain, and it is rarely that they reach from 2 to 5 megohms under the most favorable circumstances.

Better by far to use wires without any such coverings and proclaim the

fact that they are dangerous and must be left severely alone. But better still would it be to compel the use of the highest grade of insulation on all such wires and protect them from the action of the elements by a suitable mechanical covering, such as lead. The same high grade of insulation can be maintained in overhead lines as is obtained in those placed underground, providing the same class of material is used. How long is the present style of overhead circuits to be tolerated and who will be the first to insist on the much needed improvement is more than I can tell, but that such a change is needed, no one at all conversant with the subject can deny. Almost perfect insulation of overhead and underground line is possible and all that stands in the way is the added expense and the apathy of the municipal authorities and the public, who good-naturedly suffer great abuse without even a murmur.

Thousands of dollars are spent by municipalities for the best kind of fire and police telegraph apparatus, which, by the way, has been brought to such a degree of perfection that failure to give and receive the proper signals would be almost unknown were the lines on which they are placed so constructed as to convey an unfailing supply of electric energy from one end of the circuit to the other, instead of dropping it by the wayside whenever a change in the atmospheric conditions takes place.

I will now take up the subject of line construction as it exists and is practiced in most municipalities. It is almost a universal practice to claim the top gain of all poles that have been erected for the use of the city or town in which they are located. This practice of placing municipal wires above all others was a very good one previous to the introduction of electric light and other high potential wires, as it reduced the possibility of interference with them due to the breaking of other lines. With the introduction of the electric light the same policy was pursued from motives of economy.

This practice has often proved to be a most decided false economy, and if persisted in will yet lead to serious and disastrous results. It should be discontinued also for the sake of the employees of the fire alarm department, as it exposes them to unnecessary and almost certain danger owing to accidental contact with wires that may or may not be active, as they have no means of knowing their exact condition. Many deaths and injuries have resulted from this cause and I fear there are more to come. In my own city some weeks ago one of the fire alarm linemen received injuries which did not result fatally, yet hid fair to leave him a physical wreck for the rest of his life.

Roof construction is one of the things that should be avoided in the fire or police telegraph system because it is not easily controlled; it cannot be readily inspected; it can be easily tampered with through accident or design. When exposed to coal gas from chimneys, galvanized iron wire is quickly attacked thereby and soon destroyed. One rusty, unsoldered joint will often offer more resistance to the passage of the current than all the instruments in the circuit.

Above all things, bare, uninsulated loops should be avoided in circuits;

running such loops should be looked upon as a criminal act, because the instruments contained thereon are liable to be rendered useless at any time by being accidentally cut out.

The time when these lines should be constructed of uninsulated iron wire has long since passed, and it is the duty of every superintendent to so inform the proper authorities, and it is their duty to furnish the means to make the necessary change or bear the consequences.

Copper wire covered with the best grade of insulation and that in turn enclosed in a covering that will protect it from mechanical injury and the action of the elements is the cheapest in the end, as it reduces the cost of producing the necessary electrical energy and insures the correct working of the system at all times, and if every mile of these lines could be placed underground, so much the better, at any rate, all that can should be so placed, as underground electrical construction and operation has long since passed the experimental stage. It must be discouraging to the manufacturers of modern fire and police alarm apparatus to hear of repeated failures of the same, when from 85 to 98 per cent. of them are due to line troubles.

In conclusion, I contend that the present form of line construction for fire and police systems is a relic of barbarism and its continuance a crime against the public, because it invites almost inevitable failure at times when such failures mean the unnecessary loss of valuable property, the spread of flames beyond the ability of the department to cope with them, and, worst of all, the loss of human life.

THE LACHINE RAPIDS-MONTREAL ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM.

Lachine Rapids, in a certain sense, made Montreal. The St. Lawrence, navigable for 600 miles from the sea for large vessels, here descends a chain of turbulent rapids, and here Jacques Cartier halted in his attempt at a westward passage to China. Three hundred and sixty-two years later the rapids, which mark the head of navigation and determined the position of Montreal, are harnessed for the service of the city which has grown up below them.

The scheme of obtaining power from these rapids is by no means a new one, having been proposed and forgotten a dozen times within the century. It was not until the perfection of electrical transmission methods, however, that work was seriously begun.

In 1895 the Lachine Rapids Hydraulic and Land Company commenced the construction of the great water-power development works at the rapids, and, after exploiting a project for the direct utilization of the power at the wheels, decided to transform the whole output of their plants into electricity, and transmit it to Montreal, or elsewhere, as might be profitable. The engineering work done under the auspices of this corporation is bold to a degree, being in some respects without precedent, and both its financial and engineering promoters, are worthy of the

greatest credit for their persistence in the face of many natural obstacles and much adverse criticism.

The Lachine Rapids are divided into two channels by an island, the Isle au Heron, and the smaller division, on the left, or Montreal side of the St. Lawrence, was chosen for the scene of the power development. Here, in the current of nearly 15 feet per second, a dam, parallel to the shore and about a mile long, was constructed, and the channel thus formed blasted out and deepened. The dam is, for the most part, built of 12x12-inch timbers, filled with boulders. Its facing is of two thicknesses of 3-inch plank, with broken joints, and in general cross section it is square. The crest is sloping and is topped with heavy hemlock logs, squared on three sides, the fourth side, with the natural curvature of the tree, being uppermost. At the upper end of the channel, between the dam and the shore, which is about 1,000 feet wide, a number of heavy piers support a boom to deflect floating ice into the main current of the rapids. The wing dam ends in a granite pier adapted for ice breaking, and built of heavy stones, solidly keyed together by a peculiar construction.

At a point about 1,200 feet from the lower end of this artificial canal a cross dam of dressed stone 1,000 feet long serves to give the necessary difference in level, and to contain the whole of the hydraulic machinery. Upon this is built the power house, which is probably the largest structure of its kind. This building consists of three dynamo rooms and four rooms for the wheel gearing, the whole being 1,000 feet in length, 61 feet wide at the dynamo rooms and 40 feet wide at the other portions. It is solidly built of steel beams, having brick walls in the dynamo portions and a corrugated iron exterior with a lining of heavy felt and a ceiling of matched boards in the other parts. The roof is ceiled inside throughout and slated for its whole length. The floor is of steel I beams and concrete covered with 1-inch slate slats in the dynamo rooms, and heavy boarding in the connecting portions.

The seventy-two turbines are of the vertical shaft pattern, each 57 inches in diameter, and giving, at 83 r. p. m., with the normal head of 16 feet, 300 horse-power each. Six of these are attached by bevel gearing to each of the twelve horizontal dynamo shafts. The wheels are of a submerged type, having cylinder gates and no draft tubes. The massive bevel gearing consists of a steel pinion on the dynamo shaft and a crown gear on the wheel shaft, provided with maple teeth, the combination proving very effective and singularly quiet in operation. The most interesting feature of the hydraulic plant, however, is the governing mechanism, one governor controlling each gang of six wheels.

A sensitive ball governor is operated at a high speed by a belt from the main shaft. This controls a scale-beam lever, having at each end an electrical contact and steadied by a small alcohol dash pot. The electrical contacts control two powerful electromagnets adapted to move a pair of friction discs, keyed on the main shaft, to the right or left. These engage with other friction discs, to which are connected a powerful screw gearing which con-

trols, through a system of levers, the cylinder gates of the six wheels. These gates are counter-weighted to decrease the effort necessary for their control. The governor will shut off all the water from full head in nine seconds, and under ordinary running conditions is almost as perfect in its control of the wheels as the best types of steam engine governors.

The dynamos are to be twelve in number, although only four are now in operation. These machines are of the revolving field type, and are rated at 750 kw each. They are wound for three-phase current at 4,400 volts direct from the armature, and operate at a periodicity of 60 cycles per second at their normal speed of 175 r. p. m. An exciter is provided for each machine, consisting of a 40-kw four-pole generator, giving 150 volts at 875 r. p. m.

The permanent switchboards, of which there will be three, one in each dynamo room, are not yet installed. They will be of a simple type. The temporary switchboard for two dynamos is of white marble and contains three single-pole, single-break, knife switches for each dynamo, one in each phase, mounted on high corrugated rubber bases. The exciters are compound wound and are connected through three-point switches. Thomson alternating voltmeters, 0 to 6,000, and ammeters, 0 to 200, are in the main circuit, while the lamps used to illuminate the board are used as detectors in synchronizing the dynamos for parallel operation. The exciter circuit is provided with Weston volt and ampere meters. No circuit breakers are used, long fuses of the General Electric type, blowing in a magnetic field, being used in each phase. There is no other protection against lightning in the power house than that provided by these fuses.

The aerial line to the first sub-station is 30,000 feet long, the circuits being composed of O bare copper wire. This is sustained by porcelain insulators of the Niagara type, made by the Imperial Porcelain Works, of Trenton, N. J., mounted on locust pins. The circuits are run in triangles of 18 inches on each side. The poles are of iron, of a lattice construction, and are set 104 feet apart and 7 feet deep in concrete. Each is tested before use under a lateral strain of 6,200 pounds, so that it may withstand the wind pressures of the severe winter storms of the Canadian climate. The line is protected at frequent intervals by Wirt lightning arresters of the Niagara pattern. The full load drop from dynamos to transformer secondaries will be 10 per cent.

In the city of Montreal the company has three power sub-stations. In the plant of the Citizens Electric Light Company, owned by the Lachine Company, three static transformers, of 150 kilowatts each, reduce the line current to 2,000 or 1,000 volts, three-phase and two-phase. These transformers, like all the others employed by this company, were built by the Wagner Electric Manufacturing Company, of St. Louis. They are oil insulated and are cooled by water jackets. Every transformer is tested for one hour at 25,000 volts before being installed. From this sub-station there are already operated 20,000 incandescent lamps.

In another sub-station static transformers and a rotary converter of 200

kilowatts, built by the Walker Company, Cleveland, O., will be installed to supply direct current at 250 volts to a district largely filled with motors adapted for this current.

The arc-lighting sub-station will contain two sets, each consisting of a synchronous motor of the type of the generators, being 200-kw capacity, direct coupled to two 125 light arc dynamos. The company is now operating 350 street arcs by steam, and these will be connected with this sub-station.

In addition to these sub-stations 80 miles of conduits have been laid, including one which carries the main line under the Lachine Canal. In these conduits the three-phase line current at the full pressure will be carried in three-wire cables, of which about four miles are already installed. Manholes at convenient intervals will contain static transformers, giving 52 or 104 volts in each phase for incandescent lighting, or such arrangements of phases and pressures as the motors of the immediate district may require. The paper-insulated cables and cement-lined tubes for the conduits were furnished by the National Conduit and Cable Company, of New York. The Lachine Company expects to construct an electric railway to a point near the power house, where it owns a large tract of land, very beautifully situated, in view of the rapids. Contrary to precedent, it is intended to develop this as a residence district, and not as a manufacturing site.

It is the intention of this company to sell current at one-half cent per ampere hour at 52 volts. Motor current is to be furnished at a correspondingly low rate, and a strong effort will be made for the general introduction of electric cooking and heating apparatus in Montreal and its vicinity. It is claimed that this company can profitably compete for heating with anthracite coal at \$6 per ton.

On Saturday, September 25, the plant was formally opened, the Mayor of Montreal turning on the water. Mrs. G. B. Burland, the wife of the president of the company, closed the switch which turned on the Lachine current at Montreal, amidst much applause from the 2,000 or more guests present.

A curious feature of the enterprise, and one worthy of enthusiastic commendation, is that every dollar of the \$1,400,000 required was paid in cash subscriptions, and that the whole construction was on a cash basis. The shareholders are nearly all residents of Montreal and Ottawa, and the enterprise is purely Canadian.

ON COMBINING.

(By Duncan Pearce of No. 19.)

Now I must ask for leniency for failing to send the second article, but I had hard luck. A six days' wagon trip left me four days to work on the article. The second day was appropriated by our next neighbor, six miles away, calling for me to mend his mower, and the next four days were used up by a bilious attack; and my two years' notes as secretary are at Chicago, with those I took as secretary of No. 19's by-law committee, and copies of some 25 various by-laws and constitutions, and my ritual; and then the worst, the size of the job in hand, which gets greater

as my own knowledge seems to get less, and it never was much.

So the reader will please look on this as an attempt to do my duty under difficulties, and may be help. As I am only a short while over here, it is rather my place to point out what seem to be deficiencies, for others better acquainted to take up, as the last editorial in the September "Worker" so well and courageously puts it. The eight heads for final discussion I wrote down at first have become twenty-two—and hope not to weary our readers with much writing.

I have a copy of the English Electrical Union's constitution and by-laws, and have read them through and drawn from them some suggestions. Their's is a book of 100 pages and 26,000 words, while ours has 35 pages and 12,000 words. The English Union (as a National is called over there) gives complete by-laws in its constitution, and although I think that that would be less practicable here, I think our headquarters would show greater fitness if it guided and informed its Locals better.

Our first article was on the "Why of Combining;" this is on the "How," and the third on the "Who," must be written after the convention, as we are haying out here, and when it rains, being the mechanic of the push, it falls to me to fix the machinery, and it would scare some of our easterners the amount of good tackle the western horses can put out of whack.

Now, our present trades unions have got into ruts, and to get so far out of them as to be able to look around seems to me to be a good thing to do. Let me tell a story to show how I want to take the matter up in this article. A local preacher at home (he was a butcher on week days, (was speaking on Sunday to his hearers on discipleship, and said that of followers there were four kinds. There were those that followed after; there were those that followed before; there were those that followed cheek by jowl; and there were those that never followed at all. Now, there are four sorts of union men to correspond. The follower after is what we sometimes call a mossback. The follower before a rainbow chaser. The follower cheek by jowl is the up-to-date man, and the not follower at all a d—scab. The mossback has his uses; sometimes some one with a loud voice opens the switch the wrong way, and the up-to-dates get sidetracked, while the mossback tells them he told them so. The up-to-date often keeps his brains in the skulls of others. The scab is going to stay till our Unions are perfect, and the rainbow chaser sometimes does find the pot of gold.

It is a good thing to go back into the past and see how we have come along, but that needs patience and years; and it is also a good thing to go on into the future and look for a better track than the one we are making. They have not found the best way yet to the Klondike, and there was a time when no one believed in any pots of gold there. If I approach our subject from only one direction, it will be all I can do, chase the rainbow a little, and find the cause of the old track being out of fix, and where there is a better new one. Those that are used to traveling will know how to get the changed tracks.

One thing, however, we must bear in mind that in whatever we undertake without consistency we shall be at sixes and sevens; we must have agreed methods for arriving at our aim, and each of us work at that which is nearest his hand. How often the whole time of meetings goes in advocating different methods, each arguing that what the other fellow talks about will bust the whole outfit, and he is going to stop him if we can. We let our attention go from the thing we are after and put in our time at chewing the rag. Some of us are made "scabs" this way. The next article will talk of the bearance and forbearance we call brotherliness, and that we need more than tool kits; and this want of consistency causes us to act as we would call it on the job, doing the work first and setting it out after, and then we are apt to hear of doing over or taking our pay.

Just let me get off the track to point out how often in a Union something comes up in which the circumstances are isolated or temporary, and which affects the interests of members in different ways. We have no general principles to work on, or if we have we don't do it. Those interested get sore and then are called soreheads, and the probability is that those who care least about the thing get in an amendment or lay it on the table, and the work of the Union is done as only its enemies would wish it, to say nothing of the low standard that Unions get the name for. A Union is an army, and with the battlefield unmapped we will pour lead into each other.

I do not care to put time into this indiscipline shooting-off and was glad to see Bro. McNemee's fine article and the fourth editorial in the August "Worker." The nigger is still in our woodpile, and some may say that so far I have been doing the shooting-off myself, so let us get to our work, and that is to supply our delegates with good material and right plans to put it in by. We ought not to have our gang splicing scrap, each telling the other there is only one right way, that is his.

The material is the twelve clauses in our objects. Those we have already agreed to be good, and a good man wants his material to hand and the plan furnished. Of those twelve I have taken seven that seem to me more especially to apply to the craft, leaving the five others of a more personal sort to come later. Let me shortly put the seven: (1) To rescue our trade. (2) To place it on a strong foundation. (3) To establish an apprenticeship system. (4) To found schools of instruction. (5) To settle disputes by arbitration. (6) To reduce the hours of labor. (7) To secure adequate pay.

Now, I guess these are good enough. Let us take a look at them, and get their size, and after that see if we can't make our action a fit.

First, "To rescue our trade from the low level to which it has fallen." The meaning of this, few realize, and less carry out. How many of us when we start or run a Union, have in mind a prisoner to be rescued? Of sacrifice to make and time to give? I guess we mostly think we'll hold our jobs better, or maybe it's a job we're looking for, and few, who do feel our trade to be in bondage, want to work for her liberty; we generally quit her for

something better. But true it is, that she is bound, and why? Now, that is what we call a big order. Maybe some of our Unions help bind her, and a tumble to ourselves may do us good. Let us look at this thing a little. Every time a Union wins out for its members, or gets the bosses "where we want them" and the victory does not come as a reward for raising the level of our craft, it is just getting ready another bond for her, that will be clapped on when the time comes, and time comes quickly. What gang is easier to get a cinch on than a lot of working men who rely for their standing on politics? Why, every one knows that honest workers are no good at politics, and that true liberty is only to those who woo her direct. How many of us sell our birthright for the chance of a job.

I would like to look at a few of our fetters. It was said of Satan that he went about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Maybe he has quit now. I trust he has, for to my distress, I see his old plan followed by some of us even, who have taken the Brotherhood obligation, and I don't like bad company. But I am off the track now, this is the second article that deals in methods. Well, then, I have known a Union, in times when it was looking for something. (trouble, maybe), just raise a howl, make a kick, and go for everything in sight, and you know when you take what isn't yours you may get pinched, though the other fellow may, and does at times, claim what doesn't belong to him. Now, the pinch, when it comes, is not always made on the Union direct; at its office.

(To be continued.)

THE BOYS AT QUEEN LIL'S CAPITAL HAVE THEIR TROUBLES.

Honolulu, Hawaii, Oct. 20, 1897.

To President of Union No. 6:

I write you to ask your assistance in advising the boys to steer clear of Honolulu. The inside gang get \$2.75 per day of nine hours. Now the "old man" has instituted a "trouble watch," each man in the gang to take turn about and stand watch three hours each night for a week in connection with his regular work. For this he will allow us only \$1.50 per week, which you will see makes 7 1-7 cents per hour for the overtime. In the center of the town we use direct 110 volts, and in outlying districts alternating 1,250 volts, and owing to the dense growth of foliage, the entire service is badly grounded. Now he expects us to handle the primaries which, on a wet night, and this is often the case, means a chance for a bad burn, or shock, or an easy way to leave your troubles behind you, or any other old thing in the way of trouble, and all for 7 1-7 cents per hour. I've worked for double time, time and a half, and single time, but I never did, or have I ever heard before of anybody working for less than one-quarter time for overtime. I was the first to be appointed, and started the trouble by quitting. Then they appointed another, and he quit. Then they appointed a non-descript, a man whom they had literally thrown out four different times for incompetency, and who only got back through his pleadings and playing the

part of a fool. He stayed and, of course, broke the strength of the movement. His watch ends to-night, and I feel pretty sure of the rest doing the manly act—walking out as their turns come. I fear the "old man" will send to Frisco for men. He will probably send to Allen St. John Bowie. You all know what he and his brother are.

Tell the boys that living is high here, the work hard, and although it is always warm, the climate is very trying, a person never feeling perfectly well.

Hoping you will lend us your help, I remain, brotherly yours,

H. V. ARNOLD,

Ex-Member of Local No. 5 of N. Y.,
Care General Delivery, Honolulu,
H. I.

THE EXPOSITION.

Omaha, Neb., Nov. 1, 1897.

The electric exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition will reveal many interesting features. Recent discoveries in the field of electricity by Lord Kelvin, the undisputed leader in the field of applied and theoretical electrical science; Edison, the "Wizard;" Professor Elihu

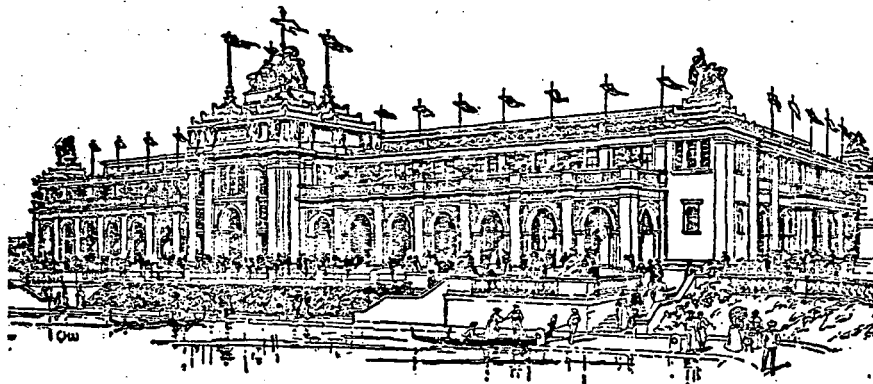
The interest and co-operation of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and the National Electric Light Association, the most important bodies of electricians in this country, who will hold their meetings in Omaha during the exposition season, will be a strong incentive for a complete demonstration of all the applications of electricity and its branches. Special features will embrace electricity in agricultural work, long-distance power transmission, recent applications of electricity in power distribution, electricity in mining, electro-metallurgical processes, long-distance telephony, domestic applications of electricity for cooking, ironing and heating purposes, and the transmission of intelligence by Hertzian waves.

Professor R. B. Owens, of the University of Nebraska, commissioner for the electrical section of the exposition, has secured the following exhibits: Direct current, single and multi-phase motors for stationary use, railway apparatus, electric mining apparatus, high frequency and high potential apparatus, telephone and telegraph apparatus, electric wire making machinery, electro-chemical processes for the reduction of metals, search lights,

electric exhibit, is intended to bring together the finest demonstrators ever assembled at any exposition. E. R.

The Mechanics' Pocket Memoranda, a book of over 300 pages, which is given by the Home Study Magazine, published by the International Correspondence Schools, Scranton, Pa., as a premium with each subscription, is one of the most valuable books of its class that has yet come to our notice. It contains tables, formulas, and other useful information on all mechanical and electrical subjects, and no up-to-date mechanic should be without such a book.

Wm. Lintern, of Cleveland, O., has written a hand-book which will be found very convenient and useful by street railway men and other electrical workers. Mr. Lintern is a practical street railway man, having had charge of repairs for one of the large street railway companies of Cleveland for a number of years, and the book is



Machinery and Electricity Building, Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

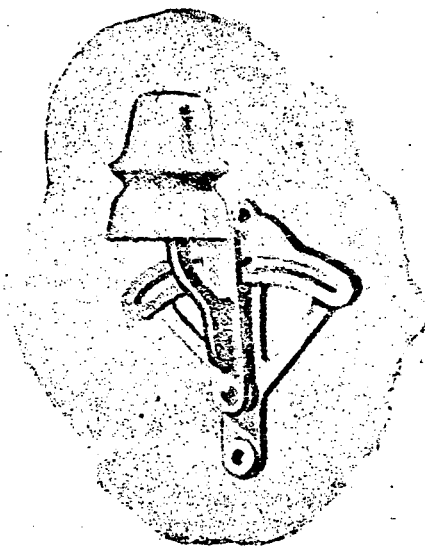
Thomson, Steinmetz, Tesla, Peabody and others will be illustrated. Mr. Louthier Stieringer of Schenectady, N. Y., who designed the electrical fountains at the World's Fair, has been engaged as consulting electrical engineer of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

The illumination feature of the exposition will reveal some magnificent effects, arranged by Mr. Stieringer, whose recent experiments in the illumination of the whirlpool rapids at Niagara Falls, by the aid of powerful searchlights, proved so interesting and successful to the members attending the convention of the Edison Electric Illuminating companies. Mr. Stieringer contemplates further experiments along this line in the night illuminations at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, principal among which will be an electric garden, showing the various hues and tints of the flowers by means of colored screens and powerful searchlights, and demonstrations with searchlight effects on moving waters, the Missouri river for a long distance, and also the bluffs on both sides, showing strange and wonderful effects developed by the aid of electrical science.

electric supplies and specialties. Professor Owens was a member of the jury of awards at the Columbian Exposition, and his relations with electrical manufacturing interests and electrical engineering have served to make his efforts and wide acquaintance of much usefulness in securing exhibits and enlisting the attention of manufacturers and inventors in all parts of the country.

Application has been made and space assigned to the following electrical firms: The Walker Company, the Fort Wayne Company, the General Electric Company, the Western Electric Company, the Wagner Electric and Manufacturing Company, the Crocker-Wheeler Electric Company, the Okonite, Ltd., Company, the Cutter Electric and Manufacturing Company, the Keystone Electrical Implement Company, the Cutter-Hammer Company, Elmer G. Willyoung and Company.

The field of electricity insures a first-class exhibition, the new electrical inventions and improvements developed of late in America and in Europe indicating a far greater knowledge of electrical science than the world has ever before known. The Trans-Mississippi Exposition, in its



thoroughly practical, coming, as it does, from a man who writes from everyday experience. An advertisement on another page gives the contents of the book, from which the reader can readily see the practical importance of the work.

THE HARTFORD TREE BRACKET.

The accompanying cut represents a tree bracket, manufactured by the Hartford Tree Bracket Company, 3 Central Row, Hartford, Conn. As the name indicated, it is intended for supporting wires on trees or other flexible supports, and prevents tensile strain which causes such destruction of wires when supported on ordinary brackets attached to trees. The bracket is made in three sizes, for telegraph and telephone wires, for light wires, and for feed wires.

The bracket is the invention of Bro. J. J. Tracy, of Union No. 37, and he has associated with him Bro. T. F. Herbert, who constitute the Hartford Tree Bracket Company. A sample will be mailed to any address for 50 cents.



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS.

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AS THE ELECTRICAL WORKER reaches the men
who do the work and recommend or order the
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St. Louis, Mo., November, 1897.

W. N. GATES, - SPECIAL ADVERTISING AGENT,
29 Euclid Avenue, CLEVELAND, OHIO.



All aboard for Detroit.

Will your Union be represented?

The Brotherhood has made more progress during the past six months than in three years preceding. The convention should accelerate this progress into a 2:00½ gait. The electrical workers of the United States need it.

In the April issue of the Electrical Worker we published a letter from Robert G. Wright, of Ft. Worth, Tex., appealing to our members to purchase a small book which he had written, from the sale of which he depended for supporting himself and family, as he is unable to work on account of an accident which left his body paralyzed from his arms down. We commented on this editorially at the time and urged that all who could afford to should purchase a copy of his book. We have recently received letters from a number of our secretaries, inquiring whether R. G. Wright was worthy of assistance. To all such we desire to say that Robert G. Wright is a member in good standing of the National Brotherhood Electrical Workers of America, and has been a faithful member since Union No. 81 of Ft. Worth was organized, in 1894.

Bro. Wright, incapacitated from following his trade as a result of his terrible fall, has had enterprise enough to write a little book, which he now offers for sale as his only means of supporting himself and family. We sincerely trust his appeal will meet with a hearty response.

Every laboring man in the United States shed a genuine tear last week when the bulletins announced the death of Henry George, as all felt that in his death labor had lost one of its greatest champions. Henry George was a man of the people. Like Franklin, he started at the case, and by natural ability and indomitable perseverance earned for himself a world-wide reputation, not such as Duke Pullman's, but a name that will live and be respected when kings, presidents and our modern Croesuses will be forgotten. The genuine worth of most philosophers is not appreciated until after they are dead. This is particularly true of Henry George, and we believe the time will come at no distant day when he will have a greater following than Buddha. His death was a fitting close to his active career.

A few Unions, acting on the advice of leaders who were either short-sighted or had selfish motives in view, seceded from the Brotherhood during the past few years. When these little crafts cut loose from the ship they were, according to their narrow views, going to revolutionize conditions in their respective cities. Have they done so? In New York, under the most favorable conditions, with the building trades thoroughly organized and a Building Trades Council that is almost invincible, it is very doubtful if the electrical workers are as well off as when they left the Brotherhood in November, 1893. In Chicago, after the hard fight the Brotherhood made during the World's Fair, and on the Marquette and other buildings, at a small meeting, acting on the advice of men who never intended to keep the obligation of the Brotherhood when they took it, the Union seceded. Two and one-half years have passed since, and what has this "independent" Union accomplished other than to give the police a little exercise guarding meetings to prevent murder, and the courts a chance to apply injunctions restraining one faction from annihilating another? Certain it is that the inside electrical workers of Chicago are in a worse condition today than when they left the Brotherhood, and the city is anything but organized. In Philadelphia, after several years of persistent work, the Brotherhood succeeded in organizing the inside men. They were doing nicely, building up a strong organization and getting into position to improve the conditions of the trade in that city, when, in an unthoughtful moment, the Union seceded, with the usual results—a city disorganized, and conditions, if anything, worse than when the Union was started, and the trade in Philadelphia given a setback from which it will take years to recover.

There is just as strong an argument in favor of having all organizations of a trade affiliated in one grand body as there is in favor of the individual workers in any locality organizing into a Union. A non-Union man frequently uses the argument that he is getting the standard wages and hence there is no object for him to join the Union, or that he is a Union man at heart and does no injury to the cause by remaining on the outside. These excuses are not accepted by any Local Union, and where the Union is strong enough, it will generally force such men into the Union or out of the city. Cannot the so-called "independent" Unions see that their position in regards to a national body is exactly the same as the non-Union men referred to? Since the Unions in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia cut loose from the Brotherhood, they have accomplished practically nothing, while nearly all Unions in the Brotherhood have moved forward, either by shortening the hours of work, increasing wages, or securing other concessions. Had these Unions remained in the Brotherhood and combined their strength with other Unions, what progress could not have been made. It would have benefited them and all other Unions.

It is the sincere wish of the officers and members of the National Brotherhood Electrical Workers of America that these Unions again affiliate, and they are invited to send representatives to our fifth biennial convention, to be held in Detroit, Nov. 15th, to confer with the officers and delegates, and we can assure them they will receive a hearty welcome and feel certain that arrangements can easily be made by which they can again affiliate with the Brotherhood. Then, with a united organization of electrical workers from ocean to ocean, and from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, the work of organizing can be pushed so vigorously that before a year passes there will be few unorganized electrical workers in the United States. For our separate brethren we have nothing but the most kindly feeling, and ask them to consider what little they have accomplished in the past as "independent" unions, and what can be accomplished when all forces are united. Consider what it means to have the electrical workers of the United States organized. Consider that there are today at least two and one-half millions of people in the United States who depend directly on the electrical industry for a livelihood. Think what a glorious future there is before an organization of such a craft, and remember, that as isolated Unions you can no more permanently improve the condition of the electrical workers in the United States than can individual members of a trade without organizing.

From the annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, we gather the following: The total mileage of railroads in the United States is 182,776. The number of employees is 826,620. The aggregate amount paid in wages and salaries in the past year was \$468,824,000. The total capital invested in railroads is \$10,566,866,000, or about

\$60,000 per mile of line. The number of passengers carried during the year was 511,772,090. The amount of freight carried was 765,891,000 tons. During the year 1,861 railroad employes were killed and 29,969 injured. The number of passengers killed was 181, and the number of passengers injured 2,873. The number of persons other than employes and passengers killed was 4,406, and the number injured 5,845. Out of every 444 men employed by the railways, one was killed, and for every 28 men employed one was injured. For railway trainmen one man was killed for every 152 employed, and one injured for every ten employed. One passenger was killed for every 2,827,474 carried, and one passenger injured for every 178,132 carried.

ATTENTION, BROTHERS.

I desire to say that I will report in the December issue of the Worker the Local Unions that have sent me money for my book, and the amount each one

sider and send to me (if he has not already sent) for a book. I will give due credit through the Worker.

Your afflicted brother,

ROBERT G. WRIGHT,
916 W. Belknap st., Ft. Worth, Tex.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR G. T.

To the Officers and Members of the N. E. W.

Greeting—The Brotherhood is at present in a better condition than ever before, both in membership and finance, and this after passing through the hard times and paying up a deficit amounting to almost \$2,000.00. This deficit was caused by a falling off in membership on account of the hard times preceding our last convention, and partly by the convention itself. However, I will say, no money was ever invested to better advantage than that expended for our last convention. All the amendments then made to our constitution have proven beneficial,

them, it is at no time better or worse than its members, and to have a good organization means to have good members, and good members are good men.

Any one who has been at the business ten years will agree with me that the electrical workers of to-day are of a higher degree, morally and intellectually, than they were before the advent of the Brotherhood, and that they are better off financially it is unnecessary to say.

I expect much good from the coming convention, and hope that ways and means will be provided to stop that great leak in the ranks of the Brotherhood caused by the loss of those members who leave a Local and go to a city where no Local exists. There should be some way to keep them without compelling them to pay the regular dues demanded by Locals when the men are not in their jurisdiction, by attaching them to the general office, or devise some other plan.

There should also be a permanent



J. T. KELLY, Grand Secretary.

sends. I have written to a good number of Locals but have only heard from a few, and so I will wait and report later, as I hope to hear from more before long.

I desire further to say that I am truly thankful for all that the brothers have done so far. I truly hope that every Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and President that I have written to will not fail to get my letter before his Local Union, in order that its members may know my circumstances. If any brother sees this and don't understand, I ask him to read my appeal on page seven of April Worker. Come to the front, boys, and help me to help myself. The book is all I have to offer. It is only 50 cents, and I have got to live, and have a family that must live also. You don't know, boys, when you may be in the same condition that I am in, viz., physically helpless, with a family, and no money, and have to hustle for an honest living. I ask everyone that reads this to con-



H. W. SHERMAN, Grand President.

particularly those pertaining to finance. Through them it was made possible to pay the deficit, \$2,000.00 in death benefits, run the Electrical Worker on a paying basis, pay the expenses of running the general office, and organize about as many Locals as we had at our last convention, and still leave a considerable balance in the treasury.

From the records of older organizations, I find that it takes years to build up a successful organization, as no matter how auspiciously they start, there will be a reaction. The reason for this is: An organization must educate its members, not only in their business, but illustrate to them that their organization, like any other business, must be run in a business way, and that practical results, while attained in a few cases immediately, are only to be obtained by hard work and thorough organization. It must also show them that if their organization is of no benefit to them, or no credit to



JOHN HISSERICH, Grand Treasurer.

organizer on the road, as he could practically pay his own way by the organization of new Unions, and the Brotherhood would be much benefited by such an officer visiting all Unions once a year, advising them and stirring them up to renewed activity.

JOHN HISSERICH,
Grand Treasurer.

If some of our Press Secretaries would study their constitution a little closer they could save a little time in writing their monthly letters for the "Worker."

No. 5.—The communications you mention were sent to your secretary. If he failed to have them at the meeting, you, as president, should see that he performs his duty.

No. 38.—The subscription price of the "Electrical Worker" to members is 60 cents per year, or 5 cents per month, which is sent in with the P. C.

FROM OUR UNIONS

UNION NO. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO.

As Bro. Kelly has reserved a great deal of space for me in this issue, I shall endeavor not to disappoint him, as it was at my request that he did so.

Work in both branches of the business is about the same as when I last wrote. At present all the brothers are working, but we expect a large number to be on the town in the near future, as several of our big jobs are nearing completion.

The Kinloch Tel. Co. have been employing men recently, but they are not getting in full time as yet, owing to a scarcity of material. The above company made quite a change within the past ten days, by retiring general foreman Mr. Crouch and placing Mr. Evans of Detroit at the head of the construction department. I am told that he is a practical man and up to date on line work, so the boys may rest assured that they will be recognized according to their merits. We wish Mr. Evans success in his new position.

Bro. Edison, who is acting as our business agent, is a hustler from away back. He is giving No. 1 better services for money invested than she ever received before. Keep after them, George. You are doing nobly.

At our last meeting we elected the following new officers to fill unexpired terms of members who are transferring to No. 3. Bro. C. H. Warner to carry the wampum belt; and I must say that I do not think we could have made a better selection to fill the position. Bro. Phil. Fish, Fin. Sec'y, who made an excellent start to-night. And last, but not least, Bro. Morgan as trustee. We also elected our worthy president, Bro. L. H. Daggett, to attend the convention at Detroit. As it stands now, No. 1 has two delegates, whose records as hustlers for the Union cannot be beat. Bro. Daggett has shown his ability and worth the past six months in holding down the seat of honor, and as for Bro. Roth, too much cannot be said. He is continually doing some noble deed to advance our cause. I have known him to go down in his pocket and spend his money where there was no chance of a return, which all goes to show that he has the Union's interest deep down in his heart. Such a whole-souled Union man as Bro. Roth has proven himself to be, is not met every day. You will all indorse my sentiment when you meet him at the convention.

No. 1 instructed delegates in regard to several changes that we desire to have made, but of course that rests with the convention. As to the advisability of making such changes, we feel assured that it will be an intelligent and representative body of men, so we have no doubts as to their action for the good of all concerned. I wish all delegates a pleasant time; something that they will not soon forget.

We are informed that Bro. Kelly is the proud father of a baby girl. You have the congratulations and best wishes of all members of No. 1.

Brothers, they tell us that Henry George is dead. Can that be so? Is Socrates dead? Is Gracchus dead? Is

the Nazarene Carpenter dead? No. Henry George is not dead. When the spirit separated from the piece of clay that was worn out in fighting humanity's battle, Henry George began to live. Though we may not look into his kindly, noble face again; though we may not hear his earnest, ringing voice again, yet in his works Henry George will live as long as there is a heart that throbs for liberty. Brothers, do you know what Henry George stood for? What it was he gave his life up for? That we all, every man, woman and child that comes into the world has an equal right to enjoy the bounties of God. It was to enforce this right that he battled from the moment he realized that there must be a way to bring it about, and from the moment he discovered the way to bring it about he has never wavered, never wearied or deviated from the straight course to bring it about. If you ever hear anyone speak slightly of the philosophy of Henry George, you can at once decide that there are many things this fellow has yet to learn, and in order that you may be able to show him so, buy a copy of "Progress and Poverty," and study it as you would your Bible, for it is a fit companion for it. "Progress and Poverty" proves clearly that if man as an individual and as a mass working together as a family will come into harmony with God's laws, it will be the precursor of that period of which the prophet of old tells us, "For, behold, I create a new heaven and a new earth. And the former things shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for, behold, I create Jerusalem, a rejoicing, and her people, a joy; and I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people; and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days, for the child shall die an hundred years old, and the sinner, being an hundred years old, accursed, and they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for as the days of a tree shall be the days of my people, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for calamity; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."

HARRY MEYERS, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 2, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

I am somewhat like the boy who is just learning to swim. A little bit nervous, as this is my first letter to the Worker as Press Sec'y. of No. 2.

I have not the least doubt but that you will all make allowances for No. 2, after all she has gone through, and still to be in the land of the living. You

have noticed in the October Worker, that Bro. Kelly came on a telegram from the Federated Trades Council, and what was left of No. 2 gave him a hearty welcome, and each and everyone felt he had arrived in the nick of time and so it proved, for he immediately went to work feeling No. 2's pulse and pronounced it was below normal. This was on Saturday, September 25th. He at once administered a large dose of what the father and mother give their boy when first leaving the paternal roof, viz., advice, and called another meeting for September 27th, when he again took our pulse and pronounced it normal, and proceeded to give us more of the same medicine till we finally became strong enough to wake the neighbors around the hall with cheers for Bro. Kelly and N. B. E. W., which Bro. Kelly responded to by giving us good sound advice, which we are trying to follow. We all feel proud to think we were installed by Bro. Kelly. He impressed on us more than ever the duties of our respective offices and I and the members of No. 2 think we have some of the best officers she has ever had. They were the only ones the Union could find who had shoulders broad enough to stand the trials of building up a Union that was as far in the hole as ours was. Our president is a man well fitted for the position he holds, understands the wants of the Union, and is able to lead and keep in the right path. We have better order and more enthusiasm in No. 2 than we ever had, with all thanks to our president, Bro. E. H. Cook. Our treasurer, Bro. W. R. White, is a man who is known throughout the greater part of this country, I mean among electrical workers, as he is one of the oldest in the business, and one of the few competent men; and those whiskers, why they are the pride of No. 2. Right here let me say, always be sure and get the best man possible for treasurer, as you know it is the most important office in any Union. Three cheers for Bro. W. R. White.

We have ousted from Local No. 2, ex-treasurer, F. G. Raymond, Chas. Herman, Geo. Poehlman, on charges preferred against them, and they never were men enough to come forward and answer the charges. The trustees were instructed to begin action for the recovery of our property by aid of the law.

With good wishes to all brothers, and to Bros. Roberts and Crawley, in particular and success to No. 37, I am,

JOE. HARRIS, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 3, ST. LOUIS, MO.

There will be hot times in the old town every Saturday night, now that the linemen in this city have met once more, and from what I can hear, intend to keep on with the good work until every first-class "up and down" man in St. Louis can flash a good card. We are going to make the membership swell to two hundred by the end of this month, November. Boys, our hall is on Eleventh and Franklin avenue, Lightstone's Hall, room No. 2. You are all invited there. For the month of November, the charter is open for

membership; only \$2.00. Come on, boys.

The Bell Telephone Co. are paying \$2.50 per day again, and put on two new gangs in October. I notice quite a number of Bell boys are coming up like men and doing the right thing.

The Kinloch Tel. Co.'s linemen are a little slow, but every Saturday night we enlist some of the boys on our roll. They are not working steadily as yet, and say that they will come in as soon as possible. Mr. Evans, superintendent of construction, has been very lucky. He has a lot of old time men working for him. Jack Morrison, Tom Schelly and Will Carney are with him; all first-class men, as derrick foremen.

Boys, let all the old troubles of No. 1 pass from your memory, and come and join No. 3, and bring your friend, if he is a lineman.

Bro. Jerry Haley has a gang now at the Missouri Electric Light Co. Our worthy president, Martin Durkin, is kept busy now, receiving applications for membership. Billie La Bagges, Ben Brown, Jim Wright and several other conduit telephone men are here. 'Tis a wonder they do not come and join No. 3. It takes a good card now to work for the St. Louis Power Co. All their men belong to No. 3.

Wm. Peebles, known as "Old Baldy," is superintendent of Kinloch Co. on east side. Look out for us, Bill. We are coming to bring you and your men over here to ride the goat soon. Bro. John Johnson is working on east side for Light Co.

The Central Union is rebuilding at Alton, Ill.

Both telephone companies are pulling in cable now. Chas. Dougherty is working on switchboard at Edison Co.

I will say that work in this city is not very plentiful, and would advise all first-class men to hold their jobs and quit floating around so much, as the superintendents are sore on some of us. For my part, I am dead willing to give up the title of the "Wandering Jew." I will endeavor to write a letter every month, and let the outside Locals see how work is here.

I hope all Unions will send delegates to Detroit. We should drop so much single tax and other business of that kind out of the Brotherhood, and work for the Union entirely.

We should call charters in where there are no Local Unions any more, and use their number elsewhere. No. 12 never meets. Also No. 28 and 49. I don't see any use of carrying their numbers in the Worker. What is the matter with using one in East St. Louis?

An electric road 35 miles long will be built in St. Louis county. They have done some grading.

No. 3 will have a walking delegate soon, and every lineman coming here must have a good card.

W. B. MARTYNE, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 5, PITTSBURG, PA.

It seems to be rather hard to elect a Press Secretary to finish this term for Local No. 5, so the burden has been placed on yours obediently to act as such, pro. tem.

As there seems to be no recalibrating of our machinery done through the press yet, allow me to suggest a few of my views, hoping that if they are not as yours, that they may be the means of furthering your views and actions for our grand brotherhood. Should we not have matters in such shape that when a place is honored to hold our biennial convention, that our head officials should communicate with such Union, and discover what actions they are taking towards entertaining the convention, and not allow such a mismanagement to occur again as our 1397 convention has been? It looks to the ordinary reader as though the convention was only of secondary importance and that its being smuggled around was an easy matter by some. Regarding Grand Secretary Kelly notifying the Locals as to their opinions (or votes) on the headquarters for our coming convention, he did not notify me of such, otherwise I would have called a special meeting and our lodge would have taken steps towards choosing the place for holding same. Neither has Bro. Kelly sent me the last quarterly pass word, and was not able to issue it, at the last meeting.

I think that strict laws should be made regarding electrical workers going to a city and trying to get in the Union, because they cannot work there otherwise, especially when they have come from a city having a Union and were non-Union there. Say make the initiatory degree twice as much as ordinary, and compel them to also pay three months dues in advance, and insist on all money with application; and if they haven't it, turn them down. Take no order on boss for money. Do unto them as they did unto us, or our brothers.

There seems to be another matter of great importance, and that is the supposed mismanagement of several of our Unions. Now then, suppose that our convention take up this matter and make laws compelling under penalty of fine, all Locals to make a quarterly report of all members in good standing; also the financial standing, and have the Grand Financial Sec'y., publish a full itemized account of in the Electrical Worker, so that each and every member may obtain same, and can see that there can be nothing questionable pertaining to the duties of secretary and treasurer, and Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. Make a law that the National Brotherhood shall take lawful proceedings to bring a dishonest officer or any Local to justice, as I think that would have a tendency to stop Local confiscation; also make it a law that our Local Rec. Sec'y., and Treasurers be paid a salary, the same to be fixed by the Local in which they reside; this would hold them all liable, if I understand the law on that point correctly, and impose a moderate fine on any Local violating their law after due notification of same.

Some of our readers may think my sentiments strange; if so, turn them to your administration. But my opinion and doctrine is, after reading the Press Secretaries' efforts of late, that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and that a stern rule adopted by the national convention, governing

the secretaries and treasurers, will be the advent of prosperity in all our Unions.

Now, my suggestions are pictured to you in a crude state, as space prevents full explanations, but I hope that some brother will interpret them at the convention, and that happiness and unbounding success may be the outcome of this convention.

We elected Bro. John Ecoff, formerly of St. Louis, and Bro. F. E. Friedman to attend the national convention at St. Louis, providing it was held there, but I do not know who will go to Detroit, as Bro. Friedman is as sweet with his better half as he was on his long past honeymoon. I think that there will be a feminine wish that will persuade him not to vacate his cozy little home to attend the convention. May the all wise Ruler of the Universe bless our Locals with an abundance of such homes.

I think that a few lines from our sisters of the Brotherhood would be thankfully received and read by all of Workers. Now, young ladies, come out and show the boys some of your ability as Union correspondents, as I can assure you, we will all appreciate your efforts.

A. L. E. ELDRIDGE, President No. 5.

UNION NO. 6, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Contrary to the usual formalities, I shall flaunt my contribution somewhat earlier than usual.

The charter of No. 6 is again in mourning; this time for our dearly beloved and most esteemed brother, Louis Kruger, who, at the time of his death, was one of our worthy Inspectors. Our most unfortunate brother met his death by cutting himself in circuit with a 2,500 volt alternator, while doing some repair work for the Western Light and Power Co., a tributary of the Edison, by which company he was employed. No direct explanation has been given of the particulars, but the tell-tale marks on the deceased's hands, tell of a short circuit. The deep sorrow of No. 6 and of his many friends was manifest, at his interment; the inmost sympathies of his nearest friends were also impressed by the many beautiful floral pieces contributed to his memory. Words cannot be framed to do justice to his worth as a true Electrical Worker, both in principal and workmanship; a constant attendant, an ever ready committee man, and a truly efficient officer, are the memories of his days as a Worker. In his daily walks of life, his disposition was enviable. Although not a man of large stature, he possessed that tenacity and sagaciousness of which mankind is so proud. Such, brothers, are the qualities of which our late brother was possessed. It is needless to say that we sadly mourn his loss, but our fond remembrance of him will constantly be with us, and we tender our inmost sympathies to his near relatives in their sad bereavement.

A special meeting was held on October 6th for the discussion of a new ritual and toward the amending of our constitution, as well as the selection of a delegate to our national convention. The latter was the first order of business, and the candidates were numer-

ous, there being five worthy brothers after the plum. Bros. Rush, Johnston, Masten, Keefe and Gale were the aspirants for national representative, and I can assure you that never was there a more hotly contested election. Four ballots were cast, and when it came to the last, Bros. Eugene Rush and Al. Johnston were left to do battle royal. Our suspense soon terminated, when the clerk of the election declared the majority for Bro. Eugene Rush. His election was declared with great satisfaction, amid a deafening applause, followed with frequent yells for a speech, and when the gavel sounded the alarm for order, our worthy brother arose and with a few very appropriate remarks declared himself for the good of not only No. 6, but for the Brotherhood in general. An alternate was next in order, and this election was as lively as the former. Bros. Johnston, Masten, Donaldson and Gale being the participants. After two ballots Bro. Al. Johnston was elected to succeed Bro. Rush, in the event of his being unable to attend. The evident satisfaction of the boys was manifest, as Bro. Johnston's election was received amidst great approval. The new ritual, together with numerous good amendments were finally adopted, and adjournment taken at a very late hour.

A visit to the Union Iron Works the other day brought me in contact with a few of the brothers who are employed at that great institution. A flying walk through some of its principal departments, coupled with a few hurried explanations from Bro. Eugene Rush, tended to enthuse me with the idea of giving you a thorough description of this gigantic place, with its ponderous machinery, which is moved and propelled by that mystic power, which is both life and death, Electricity. An enacted promise, for a day at the works with Bro. Rush is in my memoranda, and I trust that my next letter, which will be my last, will have in its annals a thorough description of not only this large institution, but also of others.

Bro. Grant of the Union, has resigned his position for one on the steamship "China," which sails for the land of the Orientals on the 20th inst. We regret his loss, as he was one of our star lecturers. His absence from No. 6 will be of about eighty days' duration, so we must reconcile ourselves until his return.

Bro. Al. Songer has returned to the city again, and although I have not had the pleasure of meeting this most worthy, I understand that current gossip in the electrical field has it that he is about to become a benedict. I have pictured the dark eyed Spanish beauty, who lives by the sea, and I shall venture to say that if the lady's disposition is as good as her beauty, he has captured a prize second to none on earth; and further, if the story circulated is true, I wish to tender the hearty regards and best wishes of No. 6 for his future bliss and happiness, and may longevity be his and her constant companion.

Electrically speaking, things are not practically dead, for there seems to be enough life in the business to keep all

the brothers occupied. We look anxiously toward the coming of the spring, when a couple of large contracts for long distance transmission lines for power and light, which have been let, will be put into execution.

Bro. Stark of the California Electrical Works has promised to give me a description of the recently constructed Claus-Spreckles Building, a beautiful structure of stone, fourteen stories high. Also of the Sugar King's beautiful mansion on Van Ness avenue, which is of brown stone, and of German architecture, the beauty and costliness of which is mythical and fabulous to the extreme, and there can be no doubt but that the electrical work and apparatus are of the best.

We look anxiously towards the termination of our national convention. It has become a by word to every brother; discussions as to its outcome are in order, and we sincerely hope that those who are chosen to represent us will perform their duty to such an extent that the final termination of our grand convention will not only reverberate in the heart of every worker, but forever remain impressed in the memory of each and everyone, as a memento of the glorious work which they have performed.

A. E. YOELL, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 9, CHICAGO, ILL.

Chicago is not having a boom in the electrical business, but just at present there is enough work on hand to keep all those who wish to work busy. There is not enough to call for an increase in the supply of workmen. I do not think we have an idle man in the city. The lighting companies, North and West Chicago Street Ry's., Telephone and both Telegraph Companies, and City Telegraph Department, are all keeping a good force of men at work. This may not be the case next month, for as soon as the beautiful snow begins to fall, Chicago companies begin to reduce expenses in order to pay dividends.

In the article from Wm. Hunter of Sherman, Tex., regarding the standing of our deceased brother, Joe Quinn, he says he was with Bro. Quinn last May in Little Rock, Ark., when an express money order was purchased to send to his Union for dues, and that Bro. Quinn's card shows it too. In same article, Mr. Hunter says, "We can't find his card, or we would send it to you." One of these statements certainly contradicts the other. If his card shows that he was in good standing at the time of his death, why was not his due card sent to the General Office, for that is the only card upon which his record of dues is kept. The money order purchased in May by Bro. Quinn was sent to me from Waco, Tex., not Little Rock, Ark., as Mr. Hunter says, and his card certainly shows a record of said express order, it being received by me on May 15th, and it paid his dues for February, March and April, nothing more, nothing less. No dues having been paid for any month since April, he was suspended August 1st, which is just ninety-two days after his dues had run out. Had he paid his May dues before August 1st, he would, not have been suspended, but still would not

have been entitled to death claim when he died, for, having been reinstated May 15th, he would not be entitled to sick or death benefit until August 15th. We have never been notified of the exact date of Bro. Quinn's death, but the message announcing his death was received August 10th. There seems to be considerable constitutional ignorance displayed by our worthy G. S. and the party in Texas, and some guess work going on by the Texas gentleman. If above said parties were thoroughly conversant with our constitutional law, they could have told by the working card of Bro. Quinn that he was in arrears, instead of claiming by it that he was in good standing until August 1st, because said card was good until August 1st because it gave the brother the right to be employed upon a Union job until such date as he would be in arrears and not entitled to either benefits or rights of the Brotherhood. Our N. B. does not agree to pay death claims for those who die while they are in arrears, nor for three months after all arrearages have been paid, and when an officer of a Local Union endeavors to abide by his oath of office, to faithfully discharge the duties of his office, and in so doing reports members suspended when they owe three months dues, he should not be censured for objecting to a claim being allowed for one whose membership had lapsed.

Because Local Union No. 1 and perhaps others refuse, contrary to law, to grant a working card for a longer time than dues are paid, is no sign that all Locals are thus unlawabiding. So long as our constitution is not changed, let us follow the law as it now is. Local No. 9 is in favor of a change in this matter, but has no right whatever to make the change until so directed by the national convention.

The national convention is near at hand, and our delegate will be in attendance, prepared to recommend some changes, and assist in whatever is for the best interests and welfare of the Brotherhood.

Let all Local Unions put their shoulder to the wheel, as earnestly as does No. 9, and the Brotherhood will never die. Just one instance to prove that we are as good as the best, and I will close. We are the first Local Union in the United States to purchase the books of our worthy and afflicted brother, Robert G. Wright, who is paralyzed from shoulders down. We purchased twenty-five of his books and will soon send our second order. He is deserving and worthy of our help, and when answering such help, writes words of gratitude and thanks, which will soften the hardest heart.

C. W. BEACH,
Fin. and Press Sec'y.

SOME POINTERS BY A MEMEBER OF NO. 9.

Brother workers, I have noticed for the past four years the report of our Grand Office on the membership of different Local Unions, and have wondered many times why it is you will find a small town that has got a large majority of the electrical workers in the Union, while a larger place has but few. Are we to understand by this the cities showing the smallest percentage of Union workers have got the poorest

class of men, and a class of men that does not care to help themselves or anybody else? I have often talked to non-Union men in regard to joining the Union and the answers I got have invariably been "well, I belonged to No. — one, time, and if you could have seen the way it was run you would not ask me to join another Union," and "if you can tell what benefit it will be to me, I would like to hear it," but when you tell them the benefit it will be to them, they don't want to hear it. I met a lineman one day, who was working on a job he had held for years, and asked him why he did not belong to the Union, and the answer I got was "well, I have often thought of joining, for if I got out of this job, it would help me to get another." So you see that men who do not belong and would not belong to a Union unless they got out of their steady jobs, are forced to admit that Unions are some good. Now, brothers, if all men in this country were like the above mentioned man, the only time we would have a Union is when there would be enough men out of work to form one. The time I am proudest to admit I am a Union man is when a traveling member with a good card comes into the city, and we can tell him there is work for him the next Monday, and at the same time there are non-Union men that can't find work, for then it shows there is unionism in the hearts of our fellow members, and just such cases as this I have seen lots of times. There is a lot of men who will not belong because somebody else belongs they do not like. That is the poorest excuse a man can give for if the other man does not behave himself, he should get in the Union and make him be good. You can't do any good on the outside, and if you do belong, don't get behind the stove when you come in, but get up to the front and if you have a good idea, don't say "I think," but say "Bro. Chairman, I move you my idea be adopted." That is the proper way to register a kick. There is another class of men that I would like to speak of. They are the men who pay their dues but never come to lodge, only about once a year. There should be a committee with a dull axe appointed to change their dates with their girls, or favorite bar tenders, from lodge night to some other night, for the business of their Local is left to the few that really have the interests of the Local at heart.

I would like to see some of the Unions make a start with the coming month, and have the Financial Sec'y. report the name of the member who has signed the most applications, just to see how many new members one old member could get if he tried. Why, just think of it brothers. If each one of you got one, it would double your membership, and there is plenty of cities where it could be done with a little hustling. I have often thought of the difference between labor and business, but they are both the same if you look at it right. If you go into a meat market to buy ham, you say how much will you sell me ham for? The butcher sets his price. If you get on a street car, you ask the conductor what

is his fare for hauling you; but if you are going to sell your labor, does your employer ask you what you will sell him ten hours of faithful work for? No. If he wants your services, he will tell you what he will give you, so you see he sets the price at both ends. Is that business? Of course it is, but if you were to hold up your end of the business you could tell him when he asked you what you would charge for your labor just the same as he tells you what he will charge for his products, and the only way to do in a case of this kind is to organize just the same as capital does.

Well, brothers, if you will forgive me this time I won't say any more, for this is my first offense for two years.

ANOTHER MEMBER HAS HIS SAY.

No doubt that many brothers will be surprised to see a letter from me in the journal, for it is my first letter for many a moon.

I have been studying for some time past how to get a better attendance at our meetings. I have a suggestion to offer to our convention, which I understand meets in Detroit, that our laws be so amended that any member not attending lodge at least once a month, will not be entitled to sick benefits. We don't expect to see every member present but we are sure that any member who cannot attend our meetings on account of business affairs ought to be able to spare a few moments to send a written excuse and have the small sum of two cents to mail such excuse.

One word to the members of No. 9, in regards to our delegate. He is, as everyone knows who is aware of his ability anxious to make a good record for the Windy City boys, and all hope that he will win and not be like Napoleon, who tried to do too much and did not know when to stop, and lose all.

I would like to mention the following: A good many of the members of No. 9, will remember I think a young man named John Lee, who was working for the South Chicago Railway and had to leave Chicago on account of his health. He was married and had one child. This was the reason that we collected a sum of money, about \$150 besides his ticket, so he could travel as any member of No. 9 should travel. He has very many warm friends, and we hope that he will have a circle of warm friends wherever he is now.

Of late I have been working for the South Chicago City Railway under directions of Mr. J. Melbourne, better known as Jacque Einstein, who will ask any man working, or coming to work, to show his card. That shows that there are some people trying to keep up the Union. At present I am working for \$3.25 per day. I have to work twelve hours for that, but then it shows that there is no excuse for a member of No. 9 working for lower wages than the Union scale calls for.

When you see undersigned name, you will remember that I was chairman of the first meeting ever held in Chicago, and that I introduced to you our ex-Grand President, Henry Miller, and that I like him, always tried to do the right thing for the Windy boys.

WALTER F. COONEY.

UNION NO. 17, DETROIT, MICH.

Since my last letter Detroit has been visited by about the most destructive fire in her history. The fire, cause unknown, started in the Detroit Opera House, after the close of the play, and destroyed about two-thirds of the block bounded by Woodward avenue and Farrar street, Gratiot and Monroe avenues, wiping out nearly a million dollars' worth of property. The fire, greatly to be deplored, will still have its good effects upon organized labor, as elaborate plans have already been discussed, and some preparations for rebuilding the burned district are now on foot, and undoubtedly before the final wind-up, the electrical workers will have their full share of the work.

Since the editor has promised to issue the "Worker" before the meeting of the National Convention, I wish to touch on a few questions that I hope will be sure to come up at that convention.

In the first place, since Sec. 4 of Art. XXIII. of the constitution says the E. B. shall pass upon all laws not defined in the constitution, I would like to know who has the authority to interpret the laws that are defined?

From the editorial in the Worker of October, concerning the brother who died in the southwest, I fully think that there is a poor unfortunate brother or his friends done out of his or their just rights. Sec. 1 of Art. X. very clearly states that a member cannot be suspended until in arrears for three full months, and is certainly in good standing until such time has expired. Therefore, his working card is good for the same time. In all justice, if thoroughly carried out, I think that is a just law, and certainly often a great benefit to the floater, than whom no better Union man walks.

I hope in the coming convention that that law will be clinched the harder, and if the E. B. or the E. B. through the G. S. has the power to stultify the same, may their wings be forever clipped. Let us have the secret ballot forever. Stab in the back, indeed! What, but the secret ballot, has made the American nation the nation it is? Have we come to resurrect the ashes of bygone politics, and enthrone their ghosts in our labor councils? No. No. No leading your men to ballot, and browbeating them in, as in politics of old, but give them the free and untrammelled right of secrecy.

Another thing I wish to hammer at, and that is, that every delegate be instructed to vote to have all financial monthly or yearly reports printed in the Worker, instead of being sent in letter form to the Locals, there to be filed and forever forgotten, and never read or studied. Where are we at? What are we about? Are we afraid to allow the brothers at large or even strangers to know our financial standing? May the Lord forbid, if we hope to continue to be a factor in the laboring world.

I am very sorry to see so many Press Secretaries crying "No attendance at meetings." Boys, pattern after No. 17 and your council halls will always be overflowing. Elect good, wide-awake officers, who are willing to hustle

among the boys outside of the council room, who seeing that there are a few lively persons in this world that are willing to shake them by the hand and give a good word, finally awaken themselves to the fact that they really have many brothers whom it is a pleasure to meet in council room; once that spirit is aroused, you will never lack a full attendance.

Since the convention is to be held in Detroit, it is the wish of No. 17 that every Local send a delegate. We have not prepared to give any elaborate blow-out, or moved to capture any greater honors than we have at present; therefore we hope the delegates will be fully satisfied with the usage they will receive at our hands.

W. G., Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 19, CHICAGO, ILL.

As No. 19 has had nothing in the Worker for some time, these few lines will let you know that we are still alive. We gave a smoker some time ago, and it was well attended. Bros. J. Drouim and Bert Johnson rendered selections from the latest comic and sentimental songs, and Bro. Will Hibbert gave some choice recitations which pleased the boys. Bro. Abbott prepared the sandwiches, and Bro. Malloy passed the refreshment and cigars around. They would make first class waiters anywhere.

We manage to hold meetings every two weeks, but it is hard work to get enough brothers together. They all have some excuse. One has to attend another meeting. One has to meet his wife. One has a date. One is so tired after he gets through work, eats his supper, and is off to bed. One has his route to patrol, and other excuses too numerous to mention. The officers attend meeting regularly. If we could give a stag party every meeting night, we would have a full attendance, but the long green is not in sight for such parties.

Work in our business is about the same.

Our Press Sec'y. quit his office, and we elected another in his place. He fails to fulfill the office, and so it is with all our Press Secretaries. They are afraid to write. If they did, they think they would be fined, so they will not write.

BROTHER OF NO. 19.

UNION NO. 22, OMAHA, NEB.

Well, brothers, once more I will take up a small space in the Worker, just to fill in, if for nothing else.

Work is very good here. The Bell Tel. Co. is rebuilding its lines over in Council Bluffs, and want men, and the Electric Light Co. is working quite a gang of men. Inside work has been good all summer, and prospects are good for the winter. There is no work being done on the Exposition yet. The buildings are not far enough along yet, but there will be lots of wiring to be done there in a short time.

Well, No. 22 is increasing in membership some, and I think at the next meeting we will have three or four applications for membership, if the boys don't go back on their word.

The T. H. Electric Light Co. have started their three direct connected alternators, and they give very good satisfaction.

Well, I guess I will open the switch, as the fuse has blown out.

F. E. ENSMINGER, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 23, ST. PAUL, MINN.

It again becomes my duty as well as pleasure to report No. 23 as once more in the land of the living. It is as yet rather feeble, but shows a tenacity and grit rather unexpected by the croakers. The so-called charter members, have not all come to time yet. They are waiting to see if those already in will make it a success. I hereby inform them that No. 23 is in it to stay. We will profit by past experience, and govern ourselves accordingly. At a meeting held last Monday, new lights were added to our circuit, and next meeting promises to be a lively one, as there are quite a few who have by this time got ready to join. There is a number of old members who are very slow in coming to time, declaring that they worked hard to keep things going before, staying in as long as there was any chance of keeping up. These are the kind of members we want. The workers and stayers. We have some already, but we must have them all. We can get along nicely without the chronic kicker, and I am glad to say he has not appeared yet. The boys so far work in perfect harmony, and here is hoping they will continue to do so.

The statement in the last Worker, credited to P. J. Geraghty, I think is somewhat misleading in regard to the price of electric lighting for St. Paul. The price at present paid by the city is \$69 per lamp per year on the all-night and every night schedule. The price for the same service in Minneapolis, ten miles from St. Paul is \$150. In an estimate furnished the city council by its own electrical engineer the cost per lamp was placed at \$76, the city owning its own plant. I can therefore see no advantage to the city in running its own lights if by so doing it will have to pay \$7 more per light. The extension of the territory covered by the arc lights would meet all requirements in this case, and the city council has almost decided to add 150 arc lights. In my next letter I will try to gather a few facts of local and general interests.

In conclusion, I will extend the thanks of No. 23 to Bro. Kelly for his good work in the Twin Cities.

B. A. SCHAK, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 24, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Local Union No. 24 of N. B. E. W. of A., was organized in this city October 6th, by Grand Secretary J. T. Kelly. The officers of the new Local are as follows: President, O. R. Shortall; Vice-President, P. F. Burns; Rec. Sec'y, M. L. Haywood; Fin. Sec'y, J. L. Wolfe; Press Sec'y, W. F. Carpenter; Treas., J. J. Somers; Ins., Nat. Warren; For., M. Sheridan; Trustees, Wright, Supple and Kelly. The new Local begins with a good membership; one may say, a very active one. We are holding meetings weekly, and get-

ting in new members every meeting. We are hustling to make the hundred mark by January, 1898, and hope to record that number on our roll. We have the supply here to draw from. All the different branches of the craft are represented in the new Local. We have under way, at present, the necessary appliances to use in our school of instruction and lecture, and to illustrate by drawings the different work which the craft handles. We also propose to hold open meetings, and invite a few of the professors to give us lectures on the work we follow for a living. Already we have been tendered the services of several to give the Local lectures on the different subjects of electrical construction. Quite a noted local street railway construction man has agreed to give an evening lecture, "How to build a street railway system." The members are elated and anxious to hear the lecture. Perhaps that will not be very interesting to the readers of your valuable paper, but a new member of a new organization is to be excused if he feels somewhat more interested about his Local than the reader.

Items of interest to electricians are few in this district. The North American Telegraph has three crews busy trying to complete their construction on the Burlington and Northern Railway before a freeze up. Telephone construction is very active at present. Construction crews from here working in southwest Minnesota report work almost completed, but farther north in South Dakota they are very active on construction. Wiring in the city is almost all finished for the present season.

The Twin City Rapid Transit Co., are talking about constructing a dam across the Mississippi about ten miles above the city this winter. If constructed, it will develop about 12,000 horse-power, and be used for electric purposes, the same as Niagara, only for their own use. The Northwestern Telephone Co. has been doing considerable construction in the city this season, and have a number of crews on underground cabling. They expect to transmit from their power station at the foot of Third avenue S. E. and Main street, to center of business district, between Hennepin and Nicollet avenues, 3,600 volts, and by use of rotary transformers reduce to 250 volts direct current. This will, if it works all right, dismantle the Edison station they now operate.

Local contractors on electric wiring are finishing up jobs. A few country towns have put in local plants this fall. The last underway, is Casselton, North Dakota. The triumph Electric Co. got the job.

W. F. CARPENTER, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 26, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The state of affairs here has improved somewhat in the past month. All the members are working. It looks as though the long promised prosperity has indeed reached us, but it may be only a fake, as the preceding one, when the bottom fell out, and was only found after a diligent search by the roustabouts. Wouldn't advise floaters to

come this way, as history may repeat itself, and I can assure them that there are enough of us here to hunt the bottom. However, if any hit here, we will do the best we can for them, i. e., see that they put their feet under the table three times per day, twice for square meals and once for a handspring affair.

How many of our Locals have given May 1st, 1898, a thought? If you have not, don't you think it is about time? If you had a "cozy little" 20x30 reading room and all the chief pushes discussing the above, you would be compelled to give it the needed attention it should have.

By way of reply to Bro. McDonnell, will say that we have the town down fine. All shops are in line, and we have nearly all the inside men in. Some credit is due the Executive Board, and some the central bodies, or rather their contract committees, for this state of affairs. These committees hustle the job for Local Union labor, and we do the rest, as far as No. 26 is concerned, and lend a helping hand to those that can't help themselves.

We added a few lights to our grand circuit at our last meeting and have a few more under consideration. We are at present devoting our time to outside men in and out of town, and are meeting with great success. Thanks to a few floaters. We fired the bomb, and it woke up some of our brothers. The only complaint we have now is poor attendance. Can't some brainy brother devise some scheme to increase the attendance? These absentees do nothing but comment on what we do when they meet us on the street. They tell us what we ought to do. I will give them credit, for some of their ideas are good and worthy of consideration. Come up, brothers, and submit the same ideas at our meeting. I'll state for Bro. McDonnell's benefit that it is personal property that carries me to Baltimore, and not real estate. I, like himself, have no use for anything that I can't carry. By the way, Joe, did you get that pie? No. 26 would like to hear from you. Bro. Rabbitt says you can't redeem that due bill. He intends to keep it as a souvenir.

Brothers, how many of you saw Bro. Wright's appeal in the April "Worker." I dare say very few. I received a communication from him which I read at our meeting, and secured twenty-five subscriptions by so doing. This was about the size of our meeting. Can't other locals do as well or better?

Brothers, I will submit a few things for your consideration. Would it be well to add a black list to our journal for the publication of crooked members? This will have a tendency to keep those inclined to be crooked straight, and place those already crooked in their right light before good men. Second, a Union Label gallery for the publication of Union labels. We have been hoodwinked once and see the necessity of this.

I'll close by making the same request as Bro. McDonnell. Give the floater a kind word and a cheering smile. Don't be too much for self (the trouble with most of our members). Help him get a job; that is what he wants. His health is usually so good that he doesn't have to travel for it. He upholds the wages,

and is usually a good mechanic, and lastly but not leastly, a good Union man, and not afraid to say so. Isn't it the truth, brother floaters?

T. E. BESSMAN,
Another Floater.

UNION NO. 27, BALTIMORE, MD.

It has been some time since I have read anything in the journal from No. 27, and it strikes me that our Press Sec'y. has gone to sleep. However, he has a great many things to think about, and will have to be excused.

Baltimore at the present time, is anything but flourishing for inside wiring, but still, most of our members are keeping the wolf from the door.

On the third of this month, our president, Bro. Chas. Leitz, foreman for John K. How & Co., took myself and three other brothers to overhaul and rectify some work that a man named Lucas, with some more "rats" had undertaken to do, but still the rats worked on. Bro. Leitz looked up the manager of the building, which happened to be the "Evening News" of Baltimore, and all printers are members of the Typographical Union, and with the assistance of the president of Federation of Labor, it did not take long to run the "rats" in their holes. After getting rid of the animals, everything went on very smoothly for a while. Then Bro. Spillman came in contact with the business part of a live wire, which burned his left hand pretty badly, but not seriously. We hope he will be more careful in the future.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

UNION NO. 35, BOSTON, MASS.

Being duly elected Press Sec'y at our last meeting, I will endeavor to fulfill the duties of the office to the best of my ability.

Well, to start with, brothers, I regret to announce the sudden summons to the Great Unknown of our brother lineman, Albert E. Walsh, of Nova Scotia, through the agency of the high potential fluid given out by the machines of the Boston Electric Light Co., at their power house on Congress street, this city, and thence through overhead conductors into the Dorchester district, where our deceased brother was sent to change from one pole to another an alternating circuit of 2,000 volts for arc light, which, of course, was supposed to be dead in the day time, and it is quite clear that our brother received the above named rapid transit agent of death through bad insulation of another and live circuit adjoining the one he was at work on. It is disclaimed that he cut into a live wire by mistake, as has been stated by the above-named company, and to clear themselves, I understand, they had new wire strung in place of the defective insulated wire, almost immediately after the fatality, undoubtedly to conceal all evidence of their liability.

We have initiated nine new members since our last contribution.

We have had two deaths within the month. Bros. Walsh and P. W. Flynn, who, I believe, was also killed while following his vocation, but I regret I cannot give the particulars.

Our late Press Sec'y, P. S. Ryan, was elected president of the Building Trades Council.
H. DYER,
Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 37, HARTFORD, CT.

There has been much activity among the members of Local No. 37 the past three weeks. Several of the boys have been working over time, for which they expect double time when the paymaster comes around at the dance and electrical display, Thursday, November 4th. The timekeeper has been keeping pretty good track, as he has had his little book and fountain pen with him right along, of those who are negligent and who have failed to put in an appearance on the job, and when pay day comes around and they find their envelope contains nothing but wind, they will probably realize that is the amount due them.

The committee on display will have their efforts crowned by the most successful and elaborate electrical exhibition ever seen in this city. They have been assisted in their work by the general dance committee, and many of the members, and are indebted to the several companies for the material used; principally to Mr. Rollins, the superintendent of the Hartford Light and Power Co., he being most generous in furnishing lamps and current; the Perkins Electrical Co., through contractor Furlong, in providing the receptacles, and Furlong, Reylands, Greene, Stautinger and Hurley, contractors, in furnishing motors, search lights and other material, on the display emblematic of the Union. Mr. Greene furnished all the lamps. To give you an idea of what this piece alone looks like, I will try and describe it. On an outside circle are the letters showing in the ends of specially made lamps, the words National Brotherhood Electrical Workers of America; on an inner circle are the letters Dance and Display, November 4th, 1897. Inside this circle will be the hand in miniature lamps, grasping the electric flashes. When I say it is rich you will presume I am not exaggerating. Following in order and in colors red, white and blue, are stars, anchors, pendants, crescents, and a large sign, "Welcome." "Welcome," being so arranged that the letters will light alternately. The chandelier will be so arranged that it will be a large globe of different colors. On the stage will be a fountain, the stream and spray interspersed with different colors, from lights arranged beneath. On each side of the stage will be an artistic piece of whittling, made into fan shapes and folded in most artistic fashions, and with the light effects they will have, will show off magnificently. The grand march and dances will have colored effects from calcium lights, and the whole thing will be on a very elaborate scale from an electrical point of view, there being upwards of 800 lights in the whole display. We hope to be able to photograph the whole thing, and if possible will furnish you a photo for the December number of Worker. By way of advertising, we will flash search lights from building around city, and have it directed at proper intervals at a large sign to be located

where pedestrians on Main street will be most attracted to it. Also we propose to march around the square having a connection with trolley, each man having a lighted lamp on end of his cane. At hall we will display large star with appropriate advertising. From the sale of tickets and returns thus far, I predict a nice little sum for our treasury, and hope from our first effort we will realize the good results we anticipate. Our expectations have been realized in the membership showing of our Local, and as I predicted some time previous that we would have 50 members before the snow flies, the feat has been accomplished. At last meeting eleven felt the current of our grand circuit, and as there is few more on the docket for to-night, I will have to get myself in shape to pull the switch.

Business good. All boys at work.
F. J. SHEEHAN, President.

UNION NO. 38, CLEVELAND, O.

No. 38 is highly pleased to have the convention held in Detroit, partially from a selfish standpoint, and partially because we believe it will insure a larger attendance. Now, as this is the last number before the convention, let us see what each one thinks ought to be done. I will state a few things that I think ought to be stirred up, and if each Press Sec'y. will do the same, perhaps the convention will have something to work on. In Sec. 1 of Art. II you will find the words "We propose to establish an apprentice system." Now, what nonsense. There has not, for the past ten or twelve years, been an apprentice in the electric or any other trade, and it is not likely there ever will be again. Boys are not taken as apprentices any more; they are taken as helpers, and when they can throw a shifter for a machine, or wind a magnet coil, their trade is learned, so it seems nonsense for the N. B. E. W. to propose to establish an apprenticeship. What we ought and do have to deal with is what is now known as helpers. Now, the helper may be a man, woman, girl or boy, as the case may be, and they should receive our attention. Again, I believe that each Local should have the right to charge whatever amount it pleases for initiation fee, providing it paid a fixed amount, say \$2.00, into the General Office. Each Local Union should have the right to charge whatever it sees fit, if it be three, five, ten or twenty-five dollars, and any brother going from one Local or city to another, should be compelled to pay the difference (if any) between the Local he leaves and the Local he must join before he can obtain work, and I believe the initiation fee in all Locals should be kept down to the lowest possible limit; not only the initiation fee, but the monthly dues should be reduced to the very lowest possible limit. The rank and file are not in this to donate any large amount of money for the support of individuals, and the officers from president down should be, and no doubt are willing to reduce all expenses to the lowest point. Let no man or set of men profit at the expense of the Brotherhood, as has been the case in a number of other organizations. And in regard to the journal,

let us take a whack at that. Each member pays 10 cents per month extra for the "Worker," and the regular subscription is \$1.00, so a brother who is a member of the N. B. E. W. pays at the rate \$1.20, while an outsider, a scab, maybe, gets the same "Worker" for \$1.00, or 20 cents per year less than a member in good standing, and therefore I kick. Let the official journal be an independent paper. Let it be edited the same as now, if you will, but don't compel any brother to take and pay for it against his will. If he wants it, let him subscribe and pay for it. If not, let him go without it. If he likes it, he will subscribe; if he don't, he won't, that's all.

No. 38 will be represented at Detroit. No. 30 will be represented by proxy. No. 38 will represent No. 30, and the proxy will have something to say in regard to organizing the girls working at the electric business.

No. 38 has lots of respect for her brothers over in Detroit, even if No. 17 was not interested enough in the death of one of its members to reply to a telegram and letter from No. 38 notifying her of the killing of a brother in one of the small towns near Cleveland. The next time a member of No. 17 climbs the golden stairs in this neck of the woods, we will lay him away and say nothing about it, until No. 17 comes around and inquires for him, which, if we judge the future by the past, will be along about the day of judgment.

THOS. WHEELER, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 43, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Once more brothers, I will attempt to fill the office of Press Sec'y. for Local No. 43. I have been receiving congratulations from some of the boys on account of my last letter. Well, to tell the truth, I did not know it was in me, but then a person doesn't know what he can do until he gets a hustle on himself and tries it once. After that he has confidence in himself.

Tuesday, October 12th, was a great day in Syracuse. The city was fifty years old, and celebrated it with a blow out. Everybody turned out; all the organizations and lodges were represented in line, with floats of all kinds. In fact, everything was done to make it a success, and it was. No. 43, as usual, distinguished herself; that is to say, made herself conspicuous by her absence, but for all that it was a day to be remembered.

At our last meeting it was decided to change our meeting nights, so that the delegates to the Trades Assembly could attend our meetings. We will meet every first and third Tuesdays instead of every week. We also elected a new Financial Secretary, a staunch, tried and true Union man; the right man for the place, I think. The experience of Local No. 2 is enough to make all brothers careful, and I say right here, elect good men for officers, and after you have elected them, see that they do their duty. Keep your books straight, by all means, for to my way of thinking nothing will bring mistrust and discord in a Local sooner than to have its members think that the books are not straight, and when a Local keeps changing financial secretaries every few months, it is almost im-

possible for any man to keep his books right. I don't say this to hurt anyone's feelings, but I don't take a man with over an ounce of brains in his head to know that business is business, and to run a business of any kind, you must have a system of some kind so that if you want to find out just how you stand, you refer to your books and if they are up to date, you know just where you are.

I did not intend to write a long letter this time, but now that I have got squared away, there is no telling where I will wind up. Now, brothers, this is just what I, as a brother of the N. B. E. W., think of that body! To begin with, I am proud I am a member of No. 43, and am ready and willing at any time to do anything in my power to help the good cause along, and if at any time I, as their Press Sec'y., can contribute to the Worker in my own foolish way an article that will do any good, I will consider that I have done my duty as a brother and a Union man. I look at the N. B. E. W., as a good big tree. The Local Unions are the branches; each member is a leaf on this tree. Now brothers, try and imagine yourself the finest looking leaf on this grand big tree. Its branches reach out far and wide to make it a good looking, healthy tree; one that will grow year after year, if it is planted in good soil. The constitution of the N. B. E. W., is the soil. Let that be of the best. Materials for making it so can be found in the Locals. Let them be men who will use their brains and their voices for the good and welfare of their Unions. Let them bring home notes from the convention to their Locals. Let the branches then elect as officers, men who will do their duty, and enforce the by-laws; let every brother or leaf of the tree see to it that he will do all in his power to make the grand old tree look good, so good that he will say with pride "I am a brother of N. B. E. W., and am proud of it." Then brothers, and not until then when each and every man (I mean leaf) does his duty, will we have a tree that will stand any storm; a tree that others who are not with us will be glad to get under its branches; a tree that will reach from pole to pole, and one, as I said before, that we will all be proud of. One Local cannot do it, but all can, and I hope God will spare my life that I may yet see this tree.

Work is about the same here. No great change since my last letter. All the boys are working, or looking for it. Yours truly is still pegging away, but I don't know how long it will last.

Bro. Downs is the happiest brother in town. The first was a boy, and it is safe to say, if he follows the footsteps of his dad he will be a red hot Union man.

At our last meeting it was voted not to send a delegate to the convention. For my part, I am sorry. I think that it is the duty of every Local affiliated with the N. B. E. W. to be represented by a delegate at the convention. There will be questions that will affect us all. Conventions are like our regular meetings. If members don't attend you cannot do business, and without delegates, the conventions would be the

same. If every Local thought the way No. 43 does, where would we get the soil for the tree I spoke of? Although I am in favor of keeping money in the treasury for sick benents, still I think that the money spent on a delegate would do a world of good.

Death has entered the home of Bro. Nat Roe, formerly of Local No. 44. It took away his best friend, and a boy's best friend, his mother. Below are resolutions of condolence adopted by the committee appointed by Local No. 43.

DIXIE.

UNION NO. 44, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The brothers will have to excuse my last letter to the Worker, as it was sent to the publishers in sections, and the last section arrived too late to connect. Got "grounded" on the line somewhere.

We had Bro. Kelly of St. Louis here for a couple of hours some time ago, but were sorry that his time was limited, as we would all liked to have met him and become acquainted.

The prospects are getting a little brighter in this city for the trade, there being a great many people moving and changing around; also the wiring of the Eastman Kodak Co.'s new building. The contract for lighting or wiring it for about 800 lights was let a few days ago, and I think some of the boys have started it already.

The brothers are all well with the exception of Bro. Greenwood, who was knocked off of a ladder while trimming a lamp, by a man driving against the ladder, deliberately, it seems. This is the second or third time this has happened to different brothers, and it is nearly time to put a stop to it.

Well, I don't like to croak, but I am like a balloon—full of gas—and I have got to work some of it off and it is this: this agreement business that is taking place in so many different Locals, is catching and I think No. 44 has caught it at last. I dare not speak above a whisper yet about it, for fear something will give way, but the outlook is bright.

No. 17 in answer to the inquiry, "How can we keep our members in the Union" suggests that every other meeting night be set apart for entertainment and etc., but in support of it, I would say not to designate every other meeting, but to select any meeting night, just as it suited the committee, and have it kept secret until the meeting came and then the members would have to attend every meeting in order to catch the right one and enjoy the entertainments, recitations, etc. But in opposition to it I would say that if a man has no more unionism in him than that and in order to get him to attend meeting the Local has to furnish an entertainment, the Union is better off without him.

Well, whoever lives to see the 24th of this month, and happens to be in Rochester at the time, will see our annual grand ball in all its glory, and we hope to make it a grander success than ever before. We would like to see every member of the N. B. E. W. at our dance, but as that is impossible, we will say that if any of the boys wander

in that night, we will make them welcome and give them a good time.

F. GRAHAM, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 56, ERIE, PA.

I have been prevailed upon to accept the office of Press Secretary, vacated by the resignation of Bro. E. T. Indermill.

No. 56 is getting ready for a grand ball for the benefit of our sick brother, E. E. Hart, to take place at Maennerchor Hall, Thursday evening, Oct. 28th, and we expect to have a large crowd.

One of our members, Bro. H. H. Hicks, has taken unto himself a wife. The members of No. 56 wish them a long and prosperous career.

This is my first offense, and if Fates permit, I will try again.

J. F. ST. CLAIR, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 65, BUTTE, MONT.

As the coming convention will undoubtedly be one of vital importance to the National Brotherhood, it is to be hoped that the Local Unions will exercise great care in choosing their delegates. Remember that they are to make our laws and map out our course for the next two years. They should be of sound judgment, able minded, and of unswerving principle—men that you know have the welfare of the Brotherhood at heart. It will be a nice trip with plenty of pleasure and amusement, such a trip as anyone would like to take. But you must not lose sight of the fact that your delegate holds, in a great measure, the future prosperity and welfare of the Brotherhood in his hand. Therefore use your best judgment in choosing your delegates.

We are trying hard to arrange some way to be represented at the convention. We have been paying out a great deal of money the past two months, and to put out from \$20 to \$100 now, would leave us in rather bad way financially, in case of trouble, or two or three sick brothers to take care of, something, of course, we do not anticipate, but we wish to guard against any such emergencies. We are corresponding with Spokane, and may be able to co-operate with each other. If we can possibly see our way clear, we will be represented.

One important matter which should be considered at the convention, is some system governing apprentices. A great many companies employ from one to three helpers to every wireman or lineman. These helpers with from six months to a year's experience, become scattered over the country calling themselves first-class workmen, taking work at any price they can get it. This is one of the principal reasons why the linemen and wiremen are getting no more wages than they are to-day. It is something I can't comprehend, but it is certainly a fact that the country is producing three times as many men (first-class electricians), as compared with other branches of labor. An apprentice should work at least two years and should attain a good grade of proficiency before being admitted to the Brotherhood. Furthermore, he should not be allowed to do the work of a journeyman until he is a member and holds a working card. There are men

admitted to some of the Local Unions who could not begin to hold a job in a great many places. Why? Because our by-laws do not give any definite examination for a man to pass. There should be a regular form of examination laid down in the by-laws, for each branch of work. But at present it is left to the discretion of two or three who may think that the man is all right while others would not think of admitting him. We want to know that when a man holds a card we will have no cause to feel ashamed of his work. Then too, our employers will value our services and in time will learn that a working card is a guarantee that the man knows his business.

Bro. H. M. Layne, foreman for the Butte General Electric, left about three weeks ago, and I believe is in Ogden in charge of some work there. Bro. J. B. Harrison, assistant foreman, left a few days later and went to Salt Lake intending to go to Chicago.

No. 65 lost two staunch brothers, and the Butte General Electric two very good men. Our best wishes go with them.

All the boys are working and there is plenty of work in sight for some time.

We have added two new lights to our circuit. Bro. C. C. Lenhart and Bro. M. C. Medherst. We also have six applications for our next meeting.

CHAS. H. CAUSEY, Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 66, HOUSTON, TEX.

Here I am again, very willing to give news, with little, if any, to give, but I must have a letter in each "Worker," if it is only a few lines.

I noticed a letter from some brother in one of the back "Workers" giving his views in regard to changing the grip and signs of the Brotherhood. I think as he does. The grip and signs should be changed, but how will we do it? That's the question. Unless every Union sends a delegate to the convention, I can't see but one other way, and that would be a very expensive one. That is, for the Brotherhood to send a man to each Union after the convention and give instruction. As I said before, that, I fear, is too expensive, as the Brotherhood reaches out so far.

I am very sorry to see Texas lose the convention; very sorry, indeed, and can't see what San Antonio was thinking of to allow it to get away the way they did. If Houston had had the chance San Antonio did, she would never have allowed it to escape.

Well, I am still on the road. At present I am in Seguin, Tex., wiring an oil mill and putting in 127 incandescent and four arc lights. The arc lights are the latest improved 150-hour lamps; the dynamo an Edison, 200-light, 110 volts. The switchboard is to be of the latest pattern, being made of marble. The mill is owned by the National Cotton Oil Co. The electrical contract was let to L. E. Miller of Houston, although within a stone's throw of San Antonio, yet we beat them at it.

Bro. O. P. Woods is at present in Hempstead, Tex., putting in a plant there; he also works for Mr. Miller.

Work, both inside and line work, seems to be pretty good despite the yel-

low fever scare throughout this State. There is a great deal of dengue fever all over the State. Your humble servant had a very heavy attack of it himself, and had about decided to give up the ghost, when the timely call of a doctor changed the tide of affairs, and instead of a committee writing resolutions upon my death, I am able to write my usual piece for the "Worker."

All members are doing well here, and we reserve an extra job or two for stray brothers.

GEO. D. CROSSLEY,
Press Sec'y.

UNION NO. 75, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

"The hot time in the old town" has passed, and followed by a much cooler wave. The carnival was a thorough success, fun galore for four days, and four nights, and it has been entirely out of the question to sleep, and if a man eat, he was playing in luck, so I am afraid our letter will be a little dull this month.

The industrial parade Thursday night of the carnival, was one of the finest ever seen in this part of the country, and there was lots of good music which makes all parades nice. Sixteen brass bands dotted the parade. Every Union in the city was represented in the line of march. The electric display of the Consolidated Street R. R., was the finest ever seen here, consisting of their tower wagon handsomely decorated, with 185 incandescent lights burning upon it, and drawn by the celebrated running team "Boney and Frank;" also a large open car inlaid in French plate mirrors, handsomely decorated and illuminated with 200 incandescent lights.

Work is steady here, but nothing rushing. All the members are working. Bro. Mack is doing some rebuilding for the Street R. R. Co., putting up 500 new poles and considerable trolley; also the Citizens Tel. Co., are building a state line from Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo. The fire and police departments have been doing some underground work, and getting the system in good condition. Bro. Carlin is well and at work again.

It looks as though we are going to have a municipal lighting plant in the near future, as our city fathers are floating \$125,000 bonds.

Not forgetting to thank our "Volunteer" for his kindness in representing us last month, I did not resign. I sent in my resignation but was asked to withdraw. I sent a letter for our journal, but it was too late for the press. Bro. Kelly will bear me out in this statement.

I had the pleasure of being elected delegate of No. 75 to the national convention, to be held in Detroit. No. 75 has some little grievance on death benefits. I will explain it there, as I am a better talker than writer.

I hope every Union that is able will have a delegate at the convention, as I feel satisfied that No. 17 are not the class of men to leave a stone unturned in making it pleasant for each and every delegate.

D. B. M., Press Sec'y.

IN MEMORIAM.

Resolutions adopted on the death of Mr. Henry George, by Local Union No. 1, St. Louis, Mo., at a regular meeting held Nov. 1, 1897.

Whereas, Henry George, the author of "Progress and Poverty," responding to the call of duty, gave up his life battling for the only cause that will truly emancipate labor and put all men on an equality of opportunity to live and enjoy the blessings of liberty; therefore, be it

Resolved, By Local Union No. 1 of St. Louis, National Brotherhood Electrical Workers of America, that we deeply deplore the loss of humanity's great champion, Henry George, the people's friend and tribune, and that we recognize in him the uncompromising enemy of oppression and monopoly of every kind and nature.

Resolved, That in his pure and chivalrous character, in the domestic circle, before the public, in every walk where duty beckoned him, his fidelity to all that is pure and noble and beautiful in life, we have the type of man whose entire career is worthy of emulation.

Resolved, That the members of Local Union No. 1 be requested to attend the memorial services in his honor, to be held at Music Hall, next Sunday.

Resolved, That we tender to his faithful wife and devoted children our sincere condolence and genuine sympathy in their great bereavement and commend them to Him in whose services the husband and father gave up his life.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes and an engrossed copy sent to the family of the deceased.

L. H. DAGGETT,
Pres't.
GEO. WELLER,
Rec. Sec'y.
HARRY MEYERS,
Vice Pres't.

Resolutions adopted by Local Union No. 6, San Francisco, Cal., on the death of Bro. Louis Kruger.

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom through His earthly messenger, inexorable death, to visit us, and under extremely sad circumstances, remove from our midst our esteemed brother member, Louis Kruger, and

Whereas, The intimate relation held during a long electrical and social career by our deceased brother with the members of this Union, makes it our solemn duty to express our esteem for his manly worth and our deep sorrow at his loss, and of the still heavier loss sustained by those nearest and dearest to him, therefore be it

Resolved, That the sudden removal of such a brother from our midst leaves a vacancy and shadow that will be deeply felt by all members of the Union and its friends; and be it further

Resolved, That with deep sympathy with the afflicted relatives of our deceased brother, we express an earnest hope that even so great a bereavement may be overruled for their highest good; and be it further

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon our minutes and our charter draped for a period of thirty days, as a testimonial of the respect and esteem in which our late lamented brother was held by his fellow members.

A. E. YOELL,
E. RUSH,
C. E. MASTEN,
Committee.

Whereas, The great and all-wise God has seen fit in His infinite wisdom to remove from our midst our brother, Albert E. Walsh, and

Whereas, Knowing the sterling quality of our noble-hearted and generous brother, be it

Resolved, That we, as members of Local Union No. 35, do hereby extend to the parents, relatives and friends of our late brother, our most tender and heartfelt sympathies; and be it

Resolved, That while we sympathize with the bereaved relatives, we hope that they will be consoled by the thought that he has arisen to a brighter and better life.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be given to the parents of Bro. Walsh, and also published in our official journal.

JOHN J. LARKIN,
T. R. MELVILLE,
E. COLVIN,
Committee.

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst our brother and co-worker, Patrick W. Flynn, and

Whereas, We desire to express our sincere regret and heartfelt sympathy to his wife and family; therefore be it

Resolved, That to show our respect to our lately deceased brother, Patrick W. Flynn, that we drape our charter in mourning for thirty days; and be it further

Resolved, That we cause to be published in our official journal these resolutions, and forward a copy to the bereaved family.

JOHN J. LARKIN,
T. R. MELVILLE,
E. COLVIN,
Committee.

Whereas, It has pleased the Almighty in His divine wisdom to call by death from our Brother, J. S. Tobias, his beloved wife, be it

Resolved, That we tender to him and his children our heartfelt sympathy; and, further, that we endeavor to console and comfort them in their great loss.

W. J. WALES,
P. L. MEYERS,
F. E. ENSMINGER,
Committee.

Whereas, Death has entered the home of our brother Nat Roe, and taken from him his beloved mother, therefore be it

Resolved, That all members of this Union extend to him their heartfelt sympathy in this, his hour of affliction, and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to our official journal for publication.

EDWARD DAKIN,
WILLIAM MCCARTHY,
CHAS. DAVENPORT,
Committee.

PROSPECTS OF THE JAPANESE LABOR MOVEMENT.

Hongo, Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 3, 1897.

It is justly remarked by some American writers that all the industrial devices which have cost generations and millions to develop in Europe and America come to us, Japanese, ready made. The same can be said, we think, of the solution of the labor problem. Follies and mistakes that were made by western workers stand ample warning for us, and if we but heed them the path of labor emancipation in this country will present quite a different picture than that of western countries.

While it is quite true that we have adopted the Manchester doctrine of cheap labor in conjunction with the Manchester factory devices, the evil consequence of which is apparent at this early date of our factory system, as witnessed by the horrible conditions of work exacted from factory operatives, child labor, etc., yet precedent experience warrants us in entertaining a cheerful view for our future industrial career. It is now axiomatic with the labor movement that the peaceful solution of the labor problem can come only through organized effort on the part of working people on the one hand and through understanding of the labor movement on the part of employers on the other. With lack of one or the other of these fundamental elements, the labor movement can never have "a smooth sea" in any country. If this be true, what can we say of our future when we, at this early date of our modern industrial regime, observe these two fundamental elements in evidence. Enough they are insignificant at present, they are bound to assume much importance in the very near future.

Nor is it a matter of mere conjecture. It was only last July when an association under the name of Rodokumiai-Kisei-Kwai (literally translated: Association for Encouragement and Formation of Trades Unions) was formed in this capital city with the avowed purpose to encourage and assist the formation of trades unions, that powerful and only agency for uplifting the working people.

This association made, during its brief existence of two months, a gigantic stride in its membership, which is now 450. The members are all working men of various trades, each of whom is pledged to make a determined effort, backed by the whole strength of the association, to organize his own trade when sufficient number of workers of said trade are enrolled in the association and stand steadfastly with the organization so formed. The association is now hard at work to educate and familiarize these disciples of the labor cause to every phase of the labor problem, and it is expected that a few months in this "trades union school" will work a wonder upon the intellectual power of these disciples.

The phenomenal growth of the association and the good work it is undertaking speak much for the future of the Japanese labor movement. Indeed, they unmistakably indicate that a powerful organized effort of the working people will be found, and found on a

healthy basis, too, in active service in the near future.

While the Japanese workers' own efforts thus present a bright prospect, they have also found a powerful ally in the person of Mr. Sakuma Teichi, the well-known Tokyo capitalist and owner of Shuyeisha, the largest printing establishment in this country. Mr. Sakuma now stands a single capitalist-sympathizer of labor, but his pronounced attitude and vast influence could not fail but to impress others of the folly of an inimical attitude toward the effort of our working people to better their conditions. With the presence of these two forces already in the field, is it still venturesome for us to predict a bright future for Japanese workers? I think not.

For the purpose of acquainting our American friends as to how this Japanese capitalist conducts his business and establishment of Shuyeisha in matters connected with his employees, let me briefly describe it, as follows:

The establishment of Shuyeisha is composed of two departments, viz., type printing and type founding, employing in the aggregate over 850 men, boys and girls. Nine hours constitute a day's work in the establishment, over work being paid according to the hours so worked. In the type founding department sixteen casting machines are worked, with a daily capacity of 14,000. Twenty-four men and thirty-five girls are employed in the department, the highest wages of the former 18 yen*, and the lowest 6 yen per month, and the latter is paid by the day, the highest being 25 sen and lowest 8 sen. Stereotyping is conducted in conjunction with this department, for which fifteen men are employed, with wages varying from 6 yen to 20 yen per month. A man who finishes 50 pages of octavo in a day is considered a skilled worker.

The printing department is divided into seven divisions; proof-reading, type-picking, composing, decomposing, press-room, book-binding, and engine-room. For proof-reading 11 men are employed, the highest wages paid being 16 yen per month and lowest 25 sen per day. For type-picking 112 men and boys are employed, with wages ranging from 15 to 40 sen per day. This job is one that is peculiar to the Japanese printing trade. As there are over 4,000 Chinese characters in general use, besides 50 original Japanese characters, it is impossible for a compositor to go all over these characters. To overcome this difficulty, type-picking was made a special job, and type-pickers pick only Chinese characters, arranging them in a case which will contain 810 types. The case thus arranged is passed to the composing room for final arrangement. The wages of type-pickers is determined by the number of cases picked at a rate of 3 sen per case. Most skilled in the department picks 16 cases per day, while a newly entered boy is only able to pick two cases. The average efficiency of the hands employed is now estimated at 13 cases per day. For composition 50 men are employed, their wages ranging from 27 to 50 sen per day. The work of a compositor consists of setting types passed

from type-picking department in the cases, inserting Japanese characters, which are placed before him, where they are needed. A man who sets 24 pages of octavo during a day is considered a fair compositor. The decomposition is performed by girls above 13 and under 19 years of age, with wages varying from 13 to 30 sen per day. In the press department 85 men and apprentices are employed; 10 Dowson's cylinder machines, together with some dozen hand machines, are there. The average feeding capacity of hands is 1,000 per hour. The highest wages paid is 40 sen and lowest 24 sen per day. For bookbinding 11 men are employed, with wages of from 23 to 30 sen per day. In the engine-room 6 men with wages of from 19 to 30 sen per day, are employed.

Among boys working in the establishment there are 260 apprentices with terms of four and six years. All necessities of life, including medical service and evening school education, are furnished to them free of charge. Monthly allowance of 40 sen is given to them, and when they serve out the term monthly wages of 8 to 15 yen are paid, with an addition of 10 yen or under if they assume responsible positions, such as foremen or assistant foremen.

A special feature of the establishment, for which it stands as a unique printing establishment in this country, is its benevolent feature. There are two benevolent systems in operation. The first is profit sharing. After deducting current expenses and 12 per cent annual interest on capital, the profit of the establishment is distributed among all employees, share of each employee being determined by his or her monthly earning. The second is an annuity given to every employee who continually served in the establishment under any capacity for a period of five years. The annuity for a term is 5 yen, and for each succeeding five years 5 yen is added. There are at present 56 men receiving the annuity of 5 yen, 14 of 10 yen, 4 of 15 yen, and 2 of 20 yen. Besides these benefits, one week's summer vacation is given to those who continually worked the preceding seven months. The employees have their own choice to go to a summer villa owned by Mr. Sakuma, and located at Zushi, a sea coast summer resort, or remain at their own homes. Not only all the expenses at the villa is borne by Mr. Sakuma, but money equal to their week's earning is given as if they had worked in the establishment. Such is the sympathy extended by Mr. Sakuma to his employees, and if all the other employers follow his noble footsteps the peaceful solution of the labor problem will surely be aided and perhaps achieved.

FUSATARO TAKANO.

*One yen is equal to about 50 American cents.

[One hundredth of yen.

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(Secretaries will please furnish the necessary information to make this directory complete. Note that the time and place of meeting, the name of the President, the names and addresses of the Recording and Financial Secretaries are required.)

No. 1, St. Louis, Mo. — Meets every Monday at 604 Market st. L. H. Daggett, Pres., 1220 St. Ange av.; Geo. Weller, R. S., 2236 Hebert st.; P. C. Fish, F. S., 1927 N. 15th st.

No. 2, Milwaukee, Wis. — Meets every Friday at 298 Fourth st. E. H. Cook, Pres., 589 Second st.; J. Buxbaum, R. S., 1102 Hibernia st.; J. H. White, F. S., 168 Harmon st.

No. 3, St. Louis, Mo. — Meets every Saturday at Lightstone's Hall, 11th and Franklin av. M. L. Durkin, Pres., 1814 Biddle st.; E. Van Trebra, R. S., 1516 N. Leffingwell ave.; Jas. Gallagher, F. S., 2421 N. Jefferson ave.

No. 4, New Orleans, La. — Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at Carondelet and Perdido sts. J. McGregor, Pres., 2111 Rousseau st.; C. M. Hale, R. S., 630 St. Mary st.; R. B. Joyce, F. S., 331 S. Bassin st.

No. 5, Pittsburg, Pa. — Meets 2d and 4th Thursdays at K. of L. Hall, cor. Market and Third ave. A. E. Eldridge, Pres., 156 Devilliers st.; H. McGregor, R. S., 4 Wandless st.; F. E. Friedman, F. S., 75 Liberty st., Allegheny.

No. 6, San Francisco, Cal. — Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Forester's Hall, 20 Eddy st. G. P. Manning, Pres., 1812 Geary st.; C. J. Hogan, R. S., 1 Eldridge st.; R. P. Gale, F. S., 1001 Larkin st.

No. 7, Springfield, Mass. — Meets every Wednesday at room 14, Barnes Bldg. Wm. Gregg, Pres., 107 Bancroft st.; T. H. Bowen, R. S., 26 Hubbard av.; M. Farrell, F. S., 59 Broad st.

No. 8, Toledo, O. — Meets every Friday at Wallahalla Hall, 137 Monroe st. P. Crowley, Pres., 848 W. Lafayette st.; S. M. Strub, R. S., 1135 Peck st.; Fred Lewis, F. S., 352 Missouri st.

No. 9, Chicago, Ill. — Meets every Saturday at 106 E. Randolph st. J. E. Poling, Pres., 6625 Morgan st.; W. A. Jackson, R. S., 197 S. Jefferson st.; C. W. Beach, F. S., 5812 Sherman st.

No. 10, Indianapolis, Ind. — Meets 1st and 3d Monday at 29½ W. Pearl st. John Berry, Pres., care of headquarters Fire Dept.; E. Bussle, R. S., 487 N. Illinois st.; E. C. Hartung, F. S., Rooms 5-7 Cyclorama Bldg.

No. 17, Detroit, Mich. — Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at Room 8 Hilsendegen Block. J. G. Forbes, Pres., 745 Milwaukee ave. W.; F. Campbell, R. S., 202 Riopelle st.; P. F. Andrich, F. S., 369 Chene st.

No. 18, Kansas City, Mo. — Meets 2d and 4th Fridays at 1117 Walnut st. C. F. Drollinger, Pres., 326 Garfield av. Kansas City, Kas.; F. J. Schadel, R. S., 612 Wall st.; E. E. W. Moore, F. S., Rosedale, Kas.

No. 19, Chicago, Ill. — Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at 6512 Cottage Grove ave. M. J. Sullivan, Pres., 4951 Princeton av.; F. Conklin, R. S., 10747 Michigan av.; J. Haffner, F. S., 2539 117th st.

No. 22, Omaha, Neb. — Meets every 1st and 3d Wednesdays at Labor Temple, 17th & Douglas st. J. S. Tobias, Pres., 2923 S. 18th st.; C. V. Schneider, R. S., 1706 S. 17th st.; W. J. Wales, F. S., 1804 Farnum.

No. 23, St. Paul, Minn. — J. H. Roadhouse, Pres. 93 W. Seventh st.; E. B. Powers, R. S., 951 Bradley st.; Wm. F. Schoeneman, F. S., 233 Chestnut st.

No. 24, Minneapolis, Minn. — O. R. Shortall, Pres., 739 Eighth av. S.; W. L. Heywood, R. S., 16 E. 26th st.; J. L. Wolfe, F. S., 124 Fourth st. S.

No. 25, Duluth, Minn. — Meets 2d and 4th Thursdays at room 6 Banning Bldg. R. Thayer, Pres., 24 Third ave. W.; L. P. Runkle, R. S., 17 Norris Bldg.; Jas. F. Owens, F. S., 414 E. 1st st.

No. 26, Washington, D. C. — Meets every Saturday at 628 Louisiana av. S. M. Wilder, Pres.; T. E. Bessman, R. S., 712 13th st. N. W.; R. F. Metzel, F. S., 309 11th st. N. W.

No. 27, Baltimore, Md. — Meets every Monday at Hall, cor. Fayette and Park avs. C. F. Leitz, Pres., 506 S. Pulaski st.; 506 S. Pulaski st.; C. P. Taylor, R. S., 906 N. Mount st.; F. H. Russell, F. S., 1408 Asquith st.

No. 30, Cincinnati, O. — Meets 1st and 3d Mondays at 136 E. Court st. Thos. Spellings, Pres., 331 W. 7th st.; H. C. Geurich, R. S., 305 Broadway; J. F. Harmuth, F. S., 2158 Vernon st., Clifton Heights.

No. 31, Jersey City, N. J. — Meets 2d and 4th Thursdays at 116 Newark av. Thos. Watson, Pres., 513 Jersey av.; F. J. Anderson, R. S., 228 Washington st.; T. L. Jones, F. S., 137 Grand st.

No. 32, Burlington, Ia. — G. M. Cunningham, Pres.; Hugh Ward, R. S., 1006 Spruce st.; Al. Fox, F. S., 637 S. Fifth st.

No. 35, Boston, Mass. — Meets every Wednesday at 49 Bennett st. Jno. A. McInnis, Pres., 86 Washington st., Cambridge; D. McGillivray, R. S., 7 Humboldt Park, Roxbury; R. H. Bradford, F. S., 76 Fairmount st., Cambridge.

No. 36, Sacramento, Cal. — Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at Forrester's Hall. J. S. Marsh, Pres., 600 Seventh st.; O. Buckfins, R. S., 1415 D st.; L. Shadlinger, F. S., 718 M st.

No. 37, Hartford, Conn. — Meets 1st and 3d Fridays at Central Union Labor Hall, 11 Central Row. F. J. Sheehan, Pres., 3 Central Row; W. W. Welsh, R. S., 19 Central Row; J. J. Tracey, F. S., 58 Temple st.

No. 38, Cleveland, O. — Meets every Saturday at 356 Ontario st. R. M. Ross, Pres., 59 Colgate st.; J. C. Coolican, R. S., 93 Erie st.; Chas. Lohrer, F. S., 237 Quinby ave.

No. 40, St. Joseph, Mo. — Meets every Monday n. w. corner 8th and Locust sts., Brockaw's Hall. L. E. Reid, Pres., 403 S. Eighth st.; Wm. Dorsel, R. S., 1710 Calhoun st.; F. A. Dunn, F. S., 418 N. 20th.

No. 41, Buffalo, N. Y. — Meets every Wednesday at Council Hall. A. Keene, Pres., 157 Seventh st.; H. A. Wende, R. S., 2256 Bailey ave.; H. M. Scott, F. S., 363 N. Morgan st.

No. 42, Utica, N. Y. — H. Smith, Pres., 43 Devereaux st.; W. S. Carter, R. S., 68 Neilson st.; Fred Murphy, F. S., 272 Third ave.

No. 43, Syracuse, N. Y. — Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at McCarthy's Hall, Market st., opposite City Hall. Wm. Mack, Pres., care W. U. Co.; J. McIntyre, R. S., care Chas. Thompson, elect. contractor; Chas. Beeby, F. S., care W. U. Tel. Co.

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No. 46, Lowell, Mass. — M. J. Burns, Pres., Police Dept.; Thos. Dalton, R. S., 368 Concord st.; H. E. Maguire, F. S., 95 Christian st.

No. 47, Worcester, Mass. — S. A. Strout, Pres., 130 Austin st.; W. J. O'Donnell, R. S., 188 Southbridge st.; G. R. Lincoln, F. S., Millbury.

No. 48, Ft. Wayne, Ind. — Meets 1st and 3d Fridays at cor. of Main and Clinton sts. R. Bartel, Pres., Hotel Tremont; A. J. Lathouse, R. S., 135 Wells st.; G. B. Taylor, F. S., 31 Douglas av.

No. 49, Bloomington, Ill. — Meets 2d Monday at Trades Assembly Hall. C. F. Snyder, Pres., Box 328; Guy Carlton, R. S., East and Market sts.; W. C. Gorey, F. S., 409 S. Madison st.

No. 52, Davenport, Ia. — Meets 1st and 3d Tuesday; A. L. Wheeler, Pres., Atlantic Hotel; J. H. Clark, Sec., 215 Iowa st.

No. 53, Harrisburg, Pa. — C. A. Swager, Pres., 115½ Market st.; Jas. Emminger, R. S., 25 N. 15th st.; C. Anderson, F. S., 46 Summit st.

No. 55 Des Moines, Ia. — Meet every Saturday at Trades Assembly Hall. J. Fitzgerald, Pres., 1924 Leyner st.; J. Haverly, R. S., 435 E. Grand ave.; Fred Robinson, F. S., 1511 Third st.

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No. 57, Salt Lake City, Utah. — R. Blair, Sec'y, care of Citizens E. L. Co.

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No. 61, Los Angeles, Cal. — Geo. F. Dorner, Pres., 127 W. First st.; W. A. Woodis, R. S., Box 84 Station B; W. R. Kingston, F. S., 931 Girard st.

No. 62, Kalamazoo, Mich. — A. D. Ayres, Pres., 534 S. Burdick st.; L. Bellman, R. S., 540 Pine st.; G. E. Tift, F. S., 324 Sarah st.

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No. 67, Quincy, Ill. — Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Trades Assembly Hall, 50 5th st. Wm. Wagner, Pres., 517 Sycamore st.; E. W. Nessler, R. S., 523 Maiden Lane; C. E. McNeimar, F. S., 1217 Caroline st.

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No. 69, Dallas, Tex. — Meets 1st and 3rd Saturday at Labor Hall, Chas. Trotter, Pres., Oak Cliff; J. H. Leach, R. S., 196 Gano st.; F. G. Montgomery, F. S., 190 Collins st.

No. 70, Schenectady, N. Y. — Meets 2d and 4th Tuesdays at Trades Assembly Hall, cor. Centre and State sts. F. Litzendorf, Pres., Crane st., Mt. Pleasant; W. A. Birch, R. S., 608 Liberty st.; J. D. Betting, F. S., 626 Villa road.

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No. 73, Spokane, Wash. — Meets 1st and 3d Thursdays at Oliver Hall, 336½ Riverside av. Gus Benson, Pres., 504 Nichols Block; T. H. Denter, R. S., box 635; C. C. Van Iuwegen, F. S., 107 Howard st. S.

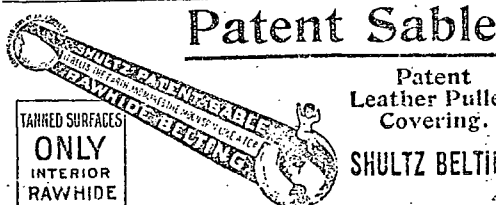
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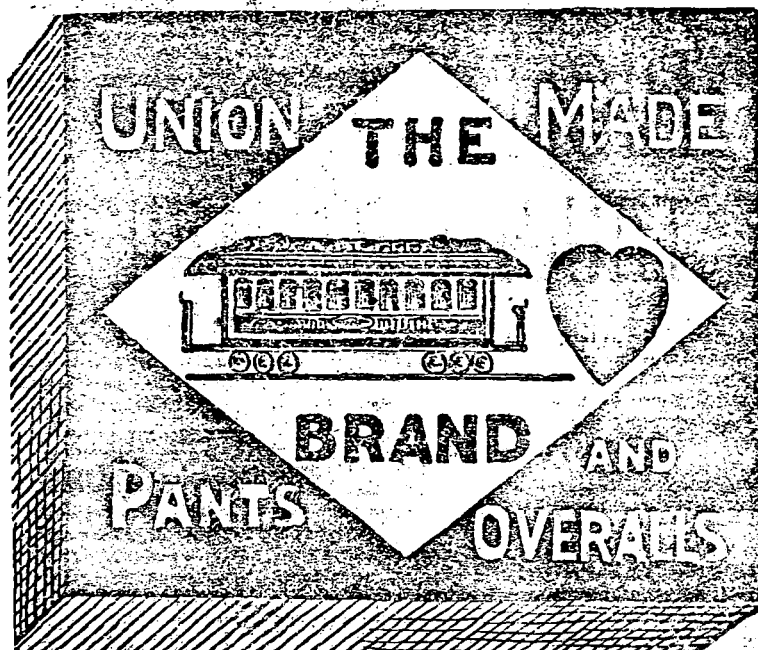
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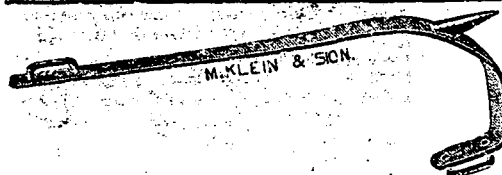


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